FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 20 *30 January 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Statement on Executive Committee Meetings [VOP] A 1 1/A7
Palestinian Command Convenes Under 'Arafat [VOP] A 2 1/A8
Baghdad VOP Reports Sidon Palestinian Clash A 2 1/A8
VOP Report on Clash A 3 1/A9
'Arafat Receives PDRY, Saudi Ambassadors in Beirut [VOP] A 3 1/A9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Egyptian Vice President Visits Peninsula States C 1 1/A10
Arrives Saudi Arabia 28 Jan C 1 1/A10
Received by Khalid C 1 1/A10
Departs Saudi Arabia 29 Jan C 1 1/A10
Arrives YAR 29 Jan C 1 1/A10
Departs YAR 29 Jan C 1 1/A10
Al-Asnaj Comments on Visit C 2 1/A11
Arrives Qatar 29 Jan C 2 1/A11
Arrives Abu Dhabi 29 Jan C 3 1/A12
Departs Abu Dhabi 29 Jan C 3 1/A12
Arrives Oman 29 Jan C 3 1/A12
Departs Oman 30 Jan C 3 1/A12

SAUDI ARABIA

Petroleum Minister Comments on Oil Prices C 4 1/A13

YEMEN--YAR

Al-Asnaj Briefs Al-Ghashmi on Cairo Talks C 4 1/A13

EGYPT

Official Statement on As-Sadat Visit to U.S. D 1 1/A14
Papers Report Itinerary D 1 1/A14
Kamil on As-Sadat U.S. Visit, Egyptian-Israeli Views D 1 1/A14
Diplomatic Campaign With Envoys in Cairo Continues D 2 1/B1
Ghali, Latin American Envoys D 2 1/B1
Ghali Statement D 2 1/B1
Ghali, E. European Ambassadors D 3 1/B2
Kamil, W. European Ambassadors D 4 1/B3
Kamil, Asian Ambassadors D 5 1/B4
As-Sadat Receives Foreign Minister Kamil 29 Jan D 6 1/B5
Vice President Mubarak Leaves for Sudan 28 Jan D 6 1/B5

Ghali Goes to Belgrade With As-Sadat Message for Tito	D	7	1/B6
Kamil: Israel Must Withdraw From Settlements	D	7	1/B6
Official Source on Declaration of Principles	D	7	1/B6
Kamil Addresses People's Assembly Committees 28 Jan	D	8	1/B7
Al-'Utayfi Statement	D	9	1/B8
Radio Correspondent's Report	D	10	1/B9
Opposition Demands Firm Line	D	11	1/B10
Reaction to Israeli Nuclear Capability Reported	D	11	1/B10
Foreign Ministry Source Denies Reported Transfers	D	12	1/B11
AL-AKHBAR Warns U.S. About Use of 'Quiet Diplomacy' [25 Jan 78]	D	12	1/B11

IRAQ

Algerian President's Envoy Arrives in Baghdad	E	1	1/B12
Delivers Message to Al-Bakr	E	1	1/B12
Concludes Visit	E	1	1/B12
Iraq Will Not Attend Algiers Summit Meeting	E	1	1/B12
Envoy to PDRY Delivers Letter on Algiers Refusal	E	2	1/B13
Presidential Envoy 'Aziz Returns From Libyan Visit	E	2	1/B13
Baghdad Radio Comments on Atherton's Visit to Amman	E	2	1/B13
CIA, Morocco Accused of Helping Iraqis Leave Country	E	2	1/B13

JORDAN

Amman Reports on Visit by Assistant Secretary Atherton	F	1	1/B14
Received by Husayn	F	1	1/B14
Atherton Departs	F	1	1/B14
King Husayn Sends Letter to Kuwaiti Amir	F	1	1/B14
King Husayn Restates Position on Mideast Problem	F	2	1/C1

LEBANON

Butrus Regrets Attack on Tunisian Embassy	G	1	1/C2
Palestinian-Lebanese Force Reported in Sidon	G	1	1/C2
Strike Occurs in Saida Following Clashes	G	1	1/C2
Joint Forces Reportedly Sink Israeli Ship	G	1	1/C2
Rightists Receive Shipload of Arms, Ammunition	G	2	1/C3
U.S. Official To Visit Beirut 1 February	G	2	1/C3
Clashes Reported Around Villages in South	G	2	1/C3
Baghdad VOP Reports on Fighting in South	G	2	1/C3

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Khaddam Leaves for Algiers	H	1	1/C4
AFP: Ba'th Delegation Will Not Go to Algiers	H	1	1/C4
ATH-THAWRAH Comments on Atherton's Efforts	H	1	1/C4
Radio Views As-Sadat's Visit Plans; Augers Reshuffle	H	2	1/C5
Paper Editorializes on Arab Steadfastness Meeting	H	2	1/C5
Radio Cites CIA on Israel's Production of Nuclear Arms	H	3	1/C6

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Boumediene Receives WPC Message on Mideast I 1 1/C7
Syrian, Iraqi Delegations Expected To Meet in Algiers I 1 1/C7

LIBYA

PLO's 'Arafat Calls on Al-Qadhdhafi for Support I 1 1/C7
Radio Gives Warning About Enemies of Revolution I 2 1/C8

SUDAN

Egyptian Vice President Mubarak Arrives in Khartoum I 4 1/C10
Meets With Numayri I 4 1/C10
Mubarak Leaves Khartoum I 5 1/C11
Sudan To Keep Peace-Keeping Forces in Lebanon I 5 1/C11

TUNISIA

Further Reportage on Union Unrest, Demonstrations I 5 1/C11
Minister Gives Press Conference I 5 1/C11
Nouira Announces Probe I 7 1/C13
UGTT Leaders Arrested I 7 1/C13
Nouira Discusses Situation I 8 1/C14
Emergency Meeting Held I 9 1/ 1
Nouira Discusses Disturbances I 9 1/ 1
Weapons Found at UGTT Building I 10
29 Jan AFP Report I 11 1/D3

ISRAEL

Cabinet Decides To Resume Military Talks in Cairo N 1 1/D4
Further Details N 2 1/D5
Morning Press Comment N 3 1/D6
Dayan Speaks About Peace, Progress of Talks N 4 1/D7
Comments on Declaration of Principles N 5 1/D8
Timing of Begin Visit to Washington Uncertain N 5 1/D8
Tamir Reports to Begin, Weizman on Cairo Talks N 6 1/D9
Progress in Cairo Talks N 6 1/D9
Minister Tamir Comments on Second Stage of Talks N 6 1/D9
Knesset Committee Head Interviewed on Peace Talks N 6 1/D9
DAVAR Reports on Peres-Atherton Meeting [29 Jan 78] N 7 1/D10
Deputy Prime Minister Interviewed by BBC N 8 1/D11
Peres Interviewed on Government's Policy [HAZOFE 27 Jan 78] N 13 1/E2
Nabulus Residents Riot To Protest Settlements N 15 1/E4
MA'ARIV Report [27 Jan 78] N 15 1/E4

IRAN

Media Views 'Arafat Letter to Shah, Other Issues R 1 1/E5
Egypt's Vice President Arrives With Message for Shah R 1 1/E5
Khalatbari Comments on Somali Situation, Other Issues R 2 1/E6
Shah, Empress To Visit India on 2 February R 3 1/E7
Envoy to Somalia Urges Indian Peace Zone Formation R 3 1/E7

Briefs: Italian Ambassador Received; Cooperation Agreement With YAR; Ministry Appointments P 3 1/E7

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Border Talks With India Conclude 27 January S 1 1/E8

INDIA

Soviets, Romanians Send Greetings on Republic Day S 1 1/E8
Irish President Leaves for Tour of India S 1 1/E8

NEPAL

Yugoslavia's Vice President Arrives for Visit S 2 1/E9
Received by King Birendra S 3 1/E10
Meets With Bista S 3 1/E10
Doronjski, Bista Begin Talks [TANJUG] S 3 1/E10
Economic Talks Held S 5 1/E10

PAKISTAN

Pakistani-Romanian Cooperation Talks Continue [AGERPRES] S 5 1/E12

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PLO STATEMENT ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

JN2717117 Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text of statement released by a PLO spokesman following the conclusion of the PLO Executive Committee meetings 24-26 January--read by announcer]

[Text] In these extremely complicated and serious circumstances through which the Palestinian cause and the issues of the Arab nation are passing, in confronting the tremors of the successive plots being hatched against the struggle of our Palestinian people everywhere and in confronting the suspicious schemes concocted by the enemies of our people under U.S. and world imperialism, we wish to focus on the following issues:

1. The plan proposed by President as-Sadat in his recent speech bypasses the resolutions of the summit conferences in Rabat and Algiers regarding the national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to return to their homeland, their right to determine their future and their right to set up their national independent state under the leadership of the PLO. This plan also responds to the U.S. plan to set up a feeble demilitarized entity under Israeli-Jordanian custodianship--a plan which constitutes the other side of the self-rule step proposed by the Zionist prime minister.

The PLO rejects all the capitulatory schemes, (?including) this plan, and warns our Arab people and nation against the dangers of these schemes. The PLO asserts it determination to resist them in order to preserve national and pan-Arab rights.

2. The Palestinian people's cause is not the problem of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as depicted by our enemies. It is the problem of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories. Accordingly, ignoring this fact would mean ignoring our people's struggle, which has been baptized with the blood of thousands of their martyrs [words indistinct].

3. The Palestinian people, both inside and outside the occupied territories, who are rallying around the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative, have affirmed their determination on all occasions to confront all the plots and to reject unwaveringly all suspicious attempts aimed at dismembering their national unity and at (?undermining) their support of the PLO. Our people have expressed this in different ways, starting with the official (?memos) that were presented to the Arab summit conferences, to the nonalined countries' conferences, to UN Secretary General Waldheim or even to U.S. Secretary of State Vance, and ending in the uprisings, acrimonious demonstrations and all forms of resisting the occupation despite the oppression and terrorism to which our people are exposed.

4. The PLO, which, in cohesion with its people, leads the struggle of our heroic fighters, has rejected and will continue to reject all the schemes the conspiratorial forces are trying to impose on our people. The PLO declares that the struggle of our people will continue until all their national and firm rights are achieved, the foremost of which are their rights to return, to determine their future and to set up their independent Palestinian state on their national soil.

5. The PLO calls for achieving (?real) solidarity on the basis of liberation and resisting the imperialist-Zionist plots which are being hatched by the enemy and other parties under the United States.

6. The PLO stresses the need to convene the Algiers summit and considers it a way to confront all the plots and plotters, the foremost of which is the United States, which has been the enemy of our people throughout the stages of their struggle and [words indistinct]. Current developments in the area have proved, regarding the arrogance and intransigence of the Zionist enemy [word indistinct] that what was taken by force can be recovered only by force.

Hence, [word indistinct] to continue the armed struggle and all forms of struggle because this will strengthen our will to thwart all the plots and plotters.

7. The PLO bases its position and assertions on a wide front of friends and allies in this world, the foremost of which are the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, the Third World countries and the Islamic and African countries.

PALESTINIAN COMMAND CONVENES UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN2311614Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian command held a meeting yesterday under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. Representatives of the revolution's factions also attended the meeting. The discussion during the meeting centered on the political and military situation.

The higher military council of the Palestinian revolution forces also convened yesterday under Brother Abu 'Ammar. Our correspondent has learned that the council discussed the various aspects of the military situation. The council also discussed the situation in southern Lebanon and the continued measures of the isolationist forces to make the situation there tense. It should be recalled that the isolationist forces supported by the Zionist forces last week encroached several times into the Al-'Urqub area and the central sector and isolationist artillery intermittently shelled the positions of the joint forces with the aim of directly harming the population.

Following the report submitted by the military commander of the revolution forces in the south on the military situation, the conferees reviewed and assessed these encroachments. The military council took the necessary military measures and precautions.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also briefed the military council's members on the political situation and on the current move to convene the front of confrontation and steadfastness in the beginning of February.

BAGHDAD VOP REPORTS SIDON PALESTINIAN CLASH

JN2821079 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] News from Beirut says that a clash involving machineguns has taken place in the coastal region of Sidon in southern Lebanon between the fighters of the Palestine Liberation Front and a group from the gangs of the agent Ahmad Jibril. Reports say that the clash, which resulted in wounding a number of Jibril men, was precipitated by provocations by the Jibril gangs and their attempt to enter the Tyre region to open an office there.

VOP Report on Clash

JN291524Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] On urgent instructions issued by the Palestine revolution command, forces of the Palestinian armed struggle yesterday moved into the area of old Sidon and mopped up the elements of anarchy and riots there. These suspect elements have been offending citizens and leveling accusations at the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. Moreover, these elements entered Sidon after the joint nationalist forces had left the city.

It is no secret that these elements recently caused many clashes inciting the masses in Sidon against the Palestinian revolution and the nationalist movement. Since the corruption of these elements had increased and they were harming the Palestinian and Lebanese masses, the Palestinian revolution command ordered the storming of their places [words indistinct] in Sidon and the commander of the deterrent forces in southern Lebanon.

The forces of the Palestinian armed struggle have managed to mop up these elements in old Sidon who went there especially to harm the revolution and the masses with a chain of the constant plotting against the presence of the revolution in Lebanon. The command of the Palestinian armed struggle has (?handed over) these elements to the Lebanese security officers to punish them.

The radio correspondent in the central operations room of the Palestinian revolution and the nationalist movement has learned that the anarchy and illegal acts of these elements was a subject of study and serious attention at the Palestine command because the moves of these elements at this particular time reveal a grave scheme aimed at instigating the masses of southern Lebanon against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

The Palestinian revolution command studied the situation in light of information available on the activities of suspect factions which have always opposed the revolution and instigated and harmed the masses with the aim of striking at the firm relations between the masses and the revolution in southern Lebanon.

The radio correspondent has learned that the command has drawn up a well worked out security plan to hunt down these factions in all areas in southern Lebanon. Joint security committees will be formed in southern Lebanon to suppress these elements and factions. The revolution command will not allow the continuation of such havoc against security and the lives of the masses of steadfast southern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES PDRY, SAUDI AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT

JN261545Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar yesterday received the PDRY ambassador in Beirut, Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi. The radio correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar has conveyed a message to the Yemeni ambassador to be handed over to brother Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, dealing with the current situation in the Arab and international arena, which will be on the agenda of both the foreign ministers conference and the Arab summit conference of the states of steadfastness and confrontation to be held in the Algerian capital 29-31 January. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also received the Saudi ambassador in Beirut, Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, and explained to him the Palestinian point of view regarding the current events on the Arab and international levels.

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT VISITS PENINSULA STATES

Arrives Saudi Arabia 28 Jan

NC281231Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Jidda, 28 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Jidda today from Khartoum on a brief visit to Saudi Arabia as part of his tour of several Arab states. Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, met him at the airport. The talks between Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Husni Mubarak began at noon today at a luncheon given by the crown prince. During these discussions Husni Mubarak reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

Received by Khalid

NC281820Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1813 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Jidda, 28 January--King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this evening received Husni Mubarak, the vice president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who arrived in Jidda this afternoon. The Saudi monarch today telephoned President as-Sadat to hold consultations with him. They agreed on all issues. Husni Mubarak telephoned President as-Sadat before and after his meeting with King Khalid.

Departs Saudi Arabia 29 Jan

LD291200Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Husni Mubarak, Egyptian vice president, left Riyadh at 0800 today after a 1-day visit to the kingdom within the framework of his present tour. It is worth mentioning that His Royal Highness Amir Fahd, crown prince, yesterday met Husni Mubarak, who informed his royal highness of the latest developments in the Middle East. Husni Mubarak was seen off at Riyadh airport by Dr Rashad Fir'awn, advisor to his majesty.

Arrives YAR 29 Jan

NC291045Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] San'a', 29 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak today held quick discussions with YAR Command Council Chairman Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The discussions were held in San'a' airport upon Mubarak's arrival from Riyadh, as part of his tour of a number of Arab states and Iran.

Vice President Mubarak said he would explain the latest developments in the Middle East situation in order to keep the Yemeni chairman informed of current events in the area. He said that he would acquaint Chairman al-Ghashmi with the steps to be adopted in the future regarding the Political Committee and the way for progress toward peace following the peace initiative. He added that his visit to the YAR was natural in view of the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Departs YAR 29 Jan

JN291754Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] An official round of talks was held today between brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, and Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak. The meeting took place in the lounge at San'a' International Airport. Mr Mubarak briefed the chairman on the latest developments in the Arab situation.

The Egyptian vice president and the accompanying delegation left San'a' airport shortly after the talks in order to continue their tour of a number of Arab countries. Mr Mubarak arrived in San'a' at 1000 this morning and was accorded a grand official reception.

In a statement to the SABA NEWS AGENCY Mr Mubarak explained the aims of his visit and his talks with the president and the leader, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. He said that his visit to the fraternal YAR is natural as there are fraternal and strong relations between Egypt and Yemen. On the subject of his tour of a number of Arab countries, Mubarak said that it is to explain Middle East developments.

After leaving San'a' Mr Mubarak sent the following cable to Chairman al-Ghashmi:

His Excellency Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief: It gives me great pleasure, as I leave fraternal Yemen after meeting with you, to send you and the brother officials my sincere appreciation and thanks for the cordial reception and hospitality accorded me. I wish you good health and happiness and wish the YAR people progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. Please accept my respect and appreciation.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Al-Asnaj Comments on Visit

NC291555Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak is due in Abu Dhabi this afternoon from Doha for a visit to the UAE in the course of his tour of a number of Arab states and Iran.

Mubarak arrived at Doha airport at 1300 today from San'a'. At 1500 he met in Doha with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, and conveyed to him a message from President Anwar as-Sadat on the latest developments in the Middle East. During his brief visit to San'a', the vice president met with the Yemeni president, who said after the meeting that the views of Egypt and Yemen are identical on issues of interest to the Arab nation.

YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, in a statement to the radio correspondent, said that Yemen appreciates President as-Sadat's initiative to regain all the Arab territories. Yemen, he said, fully understands Egypt's efforts in this connection and sees them in the proper perspective. He described the Yemeni president's talks with Husni Mubarak as useful and constructive. Al-Asnaj said he will make a tour of the states of the Arabian Peninsula with the aim of launching a collective initiative at Arab level in the light of the facts demonstrated in the firm stand of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Arrives Qatar 29 Jan

NC291117Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 29 January--Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Doha at 1330 today from San'a' on a brief visit to Qatar. The Egyptian vice president was accorded an official welcome at Doha airport. He was then accompanied by Qatari heir apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani to the guest palace in Ar-Rumaylah, where he will stay during his visit.

Arrives Abu Dhabi 29 Jan

NC291641Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1621 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 January--From Dalah Tayil--Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha at 1715 Cairo time today. He was received at the airport by UAE Vice President Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, Armed Forces Deputy Supreme Commander Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Commander of the Western Military Area Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid, Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

After the reception ceremony, Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the airport's lounge during which he conveyed a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the latest developments with regard to the Middle East issue in light of the Egyptian move to establish a just peace in the area. The vice president's visit is scheduled to last 1 hour, after which he will leave Abu Dhabi for Muscat, where he will hand Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id a message from As-Sadat.

Departs Abu Dhabi 29 Jan

NC291802Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 January--Vice President Husni Mubarak left Abu Dhabi for Muscat at 1815 Cairo time today after a 1-hour visit to the UAE, during which he conveyed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Mubarak also had talks with UAE Vice President Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id Al-Maktum on the latest developments in the Middle East situation. The talks were attended by Armed Forces Deputy Supreme Commander Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, Western Military Area Commander Col Sultan ibn Zayid, Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and Communications Minister Muhammad al-Mulla.

Arrives Oman 29 Jan

NC291900Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 29 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak conveyed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id when the sultan received Mubarak this evening. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the latest developments with regard to the Middle East issue in light of the current Egyptian move. Mubarak arrived in Muscat from Abu Dhabi at 1900 Cairo time today. He will spend the night in Oman. In the morning Mubarak will continue his current tour of nine Arab states and Iran.

Departs Oman 30 Jan

NC301020Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 30 January--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak has asserted that in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area, Israel must withdraw from all the territories which were occupied in 1967 and recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a press conference which he held in Muscat before leaving for Teheran today, Mubarak said that this has been Egypt's principle for the past 30 years and that Egypt does not seek a separate solution. He added that the Arab position is very strong and that there is nothing to fear as far as Arab solidarity is concerned. Mubarak further said that it is Egypt's view that this is not an opportune time to hold an Arab summit. He added: We are seeking a solution to the problem and not seeking a summit conference to exacerbate the differences. A summit can be arranged after we have gone all the way.

Asked if Israel's intransigence is due to a defect in the Arab military position, Husni Mubarak said: Not at all. The military position of the Arab nation is excellent and does not constitute a problem. We all know Israel's method of negotiations. Asked if Israel is negotiating with Egypt from a position of strength, Mubarak said: Not at all. There is no need to go into detail. Asked about development of the Egyptian stand in the wake of the toughening of the Israeli stand, the Egyptian vice president said: I cannot tell what the future holds, but each will have to draw his own conclusions. Husni Mubarak praised the attitude of the Sultanate of Oman toward the Egyptian initiative, saying that His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, was the first one to support this initiative fully.

The press conference which Mubarak held at the guest palace was attended by His Highness Thuwayni ibn Shihab, the special adviser of His Majesty Sultan Qabus and Yusuf Al'alawi, and under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

SAUDI ARABIA

PETROLEUM MINISTER COMMENTS ON OIL PRICES

NC2814432 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 January--Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has affirmed that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will do all it can to boost the world economy and help it grow. In an interview given to Swiss television, Shaykh Yamani said that the continued decline of the dollar is worrying all the OPEC members and will affect their revenues. Yamani said that the continued decline of the dollar might force the OPEC states to revise the old idea of adopting a new price system for crude oil, based on two equations called Geneva 1 and Geneva 2. These equations were studied by OPEC previously and are based on a variety of currencies.

YEMEN--YAR

AL-ASNAJ BRIEFS AL-GHASHMI ON CAIRO TALKS

LD2619022 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President al-Ghashmi today received Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who briefed him on his talks in Cairo with Egyptian officials, the Arab League secretary general and the Sudanese vice president.

The brother foreign minister returned to San'a' yesterday and told SABA NEWS AGENCY that his contacts had been useful and had crystalized many issues. They would greatly facilitate the task of the Yemen Arab Republic and many of its sister states in the peninsula and the Arab Gulf in finding a better formula for inter-Arab cooperation and in restoring a healthier spirit of Arab solidarity.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON AS-SADAT VISIT TO U.S.

NC2913300Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--President Anwar as-Sadat will visit the United States from 4 to 5 February.

The following official statement was issued today on the visit: President Jimmy Carter has invited President Anwar as-Sadat to visit the United States for consultations regarding the Middle East situation 4-5 February 1978. President as-Sadat has accepted the invitation, the arrangements for which are now being made. The purpose of the meeting between the two presidents is to make a broad review of the progress the Arab-Israeli negotiations have achieved and of the ways of insuring their effective progress to achieve the common goal for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

This statement was released simultaneously at 1800 today in Cairo and Washington.

Papers Report Itinerary

NC2907377 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--Cairo papers today report that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will begin his tour Thursday with a 1-day visit to Morocco to meet with His Majesty King Hassan II.

President as-Sadat will leave Morocco for Washington on Friday. He will spend 2 days in discussions with U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Camp David. He will then return to Washington where he will meet with members of the Senate and House foreign relations committees.

President as-Sadat will leave Washington next Wednesday for London to meet with British Prime Minister James Callaghan at London airport. He will then fly to Bonn where he will spend the night and meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. President as-Sadat will go to Austria on Thursday, where he will spend a few hours meeting with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. He will then leave for Romania to meet with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. President as-Sadat will then fly to Paris to meet with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

President as-Sadat will be accompanied on his tour by Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

KAMIL ON AS-SADAT U.S. VISIT, EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI VIEWS

NC2821115Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that President Anwar as-Sadat will visit the United States in response to an invitation which he received from U.S. President Jimmy Carter a few days ago.

In a statement to reporters tonight, the foreign minister said that during his visit to the United States President as-Sadat will hold discussions with President Carter on the current situation in the Middle East in the light of recent developments in the area. Answering a question on the U.S. role in the Middle East question, Kamil said that the United States has a very important role and that during their coming meeting Presidents as-Sadat and Carter will discuss how to achieve something constructive to solve the issue.

Asked whether he received anything from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton on the results of his discussions in Israel, Kamil said that he has received nothing so far. The foreign minister said that Atherton is due in Cairo on Monday or Tuesday and that he will meet with him to learn the results of his discussions in Israel and of his unofficial visit to the Middle East.

Asked about the extent of the difference between Egypt and Israel regarding the principles of peace, Kamil said that there is still a wide gap between the two sides. He explained that the discussions between Egypt and Israel are important and will take some time because such problems cannot be solved in a matter of days. He added that it is not possible to determine the duration of the discussions which might take a month or more and that this depends on the other side and its desire to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the area.

DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN WITH ENVOYS IN CAIRO CONTINUES

Ghali, Latin America Envoys

NC271932Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT 27 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 January--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this evening with the ambassadors and representatives of the Latin American states in Cairo. The meeting is within the framework of Egypt's intensive campaign to acquaint the world states with current developments in the Middle East crisis and the circumstances which led to the freezing of the activities of the Political and Military committees and Egypt's stand on this matter.

A total of 13 ambassadors and charges d'affaires representing the Latin American states attended this meeting. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Salah Hasan, Director of the Latin American Department at the Foreign Ministry Ambassador 'Izz ad-Din Rif'at and Director of Minister Ghali's office Minister Plenipotentiary 'Ala' Khayrat attended on the Egyptian side.

Ghali Statement

NC272057Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said after his Cairo meeting with the representatives of Latin American states that he had briefed them on developments in the Middle East situation. He said that the solidarity of the Latin American states is important because this is an issue of concern to the Third World, which embraces Latin America and the African and Asian continents.

He said the present efforts are aimed at arriving at a declaration of principles and at finding a way to apply these principles. This will prepare the atmosphere for the Geneva conference, which is the international framework proposed by the two superpowers. He said the U.S. role is still extremely important because the United States is playing the role of mediator.

Meanwhile, an official source has stated that Egypt has presented a working paper and that Israel has presented another paper. He said Alfred Atherton is coordinating the two papers. He added that the Egyptian paper includes the principle of total withdrawal from the Arab territories; full humanitarian and political rights for the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination; and the establishment of normal relations for the sake of achieving peace in the Middle East.

The source added that the United States has discussed these principles through U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton. When Atherton arrives in Cairo, he will bring a paper specifying the views of the other side on these principles, or he may bring a comprehensive plan if he is able to ascertain Israel's final views on these principles.

The source said that the purpose of these contacts is to gain approval for the principle of withdrawal and to tackle the Palestinian issue in a more meaningful manner than that stipulated in Resolution 242, which deals only with the Palestinians' rights as refugees. This will lead to recognition of their political right to self-determination. Withdrawal must extend to Egypt's international borders and there must be complete withdrawal from the Golan. Withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza will signify recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. When this principle is achieved, it is expected that an Egyptian-Israeli-Jordanian-U.S.-Palestinian committee will be established to define the way for the Palestinians to attain the right to self-determination and what forces will replace the Israeli forces [presumably in the Palestinian state]. The source emphasized that Egypt's historical commitment is to achieve the principles of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil is scheduled to meet with the West European and Canadian ambassadors tomorrow evening. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will also continue his meetings with the representatives of the states of the world. He will meet with the East European ambassadors tomorrow morning.

Ghali, E. European Ambassadors

NC2810302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1006 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--This morning Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with the ambassadors of the East European states in Cairo as part of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's compaign to acquaint ambassadors with the Egyptian stand and the Israeli side's obduracy which has led to the suspension of the Jerusalem discussions.

The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the GDR and Bulgaria. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Muhammad 'Atif an-Nuwawi, Minister Plenipotentiary 'Ala' Khayrat and Second Secretary Hasan Fahmi.

Dr Ghali fully explained what took place at the meetings between Egypt and Israel and the reasons which led to the suspension of the activities of the Military and Political committees. He said that Egypt insists on the declaration of principles before the resumption of the meetings between the two sides.

Dr Ghali emphasized Egypt's stand on the need for a comprehensive solution to the problem in the light of its national commitment to the Arab states. He also asserted that Egypt acts in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences and the UN resolutions and that the Cairo conference and the UN resolutions and that the Cairo conference is preparatory to the Geneva conference to insure its success in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He reaffirmed Egypt's stand on the need to recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinians and on withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Soviet ambassador to Egypt, V. P. Polyakov, said after the meeting that Dr Ghali explained Middle East developments to the ambassadors, especially the reasons which led to the suspension of the activities of the Military and Political committees. He added that the ambassadors will communicate what they heard at today's meeting to their governments.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will meet with the West European ambassadors tonight within the framework of the intensive contacts being held with ambassadors and representatives in Cairo. He will brief them on the developments of the situation.

Kamil, W. European Ambassadors

NC2813502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil resumed his intensive contacts this evening with the ambassadors and representatives of the world states in Cairo to brief them on the developments in the Middle East, particularly following President Anwar as-Sadat's historic initiative and the meetings which followed, and to acquaint them with the reasons which led to the freezing of the activities of the Political and Military committees and with Egypt's stand on just peace and its principles.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met this evening with the ambassadors of the West European states in Cairo. A total of 19 ambassadors and charges d'affaires attended this meeting. The ambassadors of Yugoslavia, Romania, Albania and Canada also attended.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Minister Under Secretary Ambassador Salah Hasan; the director of the West Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador 'Izz ad-Din 'Isa; the (?director of the department) of America, Ambassador Sami Jad al-Haqq; and Director of Protocol Ambassador Sa'id Hamzah.

MENA has learned that during the 90-minute meeting Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil reviewed the developments since President as-Sadat's initiative and the Cairo, Ismailia and Political and Military committee meetings which followed in its wake.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained the Egyptian stand, saying it centers on the need to reach an agreement on the principles which will govern a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement. The foreign minister added that the Egyptian situation is based on the following two principles: 1) withdrawal from all territories which were occupied in 1967, and 2) the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and the right of all peoples in the area to live in security and peace.

The foreign minister said that the Israeli side concentrates its attention on side issues which have no basis [words indistinct] the question of the settlements. The foreign minister then dealt with the Jerusalem meetings and the contacts which took place regarding the agenda and the U.S. role in this regard--a role which led to an agreement on a three-item agenda.

The minister referred to the atmosphere [words indistinct] Egyptian delegation and the continuation and repetition of the Israeli statements regarding the settlements [words indistinct] difficult to continue the negotiations. He explained the reasons for recalling the Egyptian delegation from Jerusalem and the current situation and efforts.

The foreign minister expressed Egypt's readiness to resume the negotiations if an atmosphere conducive to their success is provided.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stressed the importance of the current U.S. role. He said that Egypt attaches special importance to the role played by states and international groupings and organizations in the current stage and hopes that this role will be exercised by states which care about stability and peace in the Middle East and which have always shown interest in this area, such as the EEC states which issued an important statement in this regard last June. The foreign minister further expressed Egypt's appreciation for any contribution made by the friendly states and regional groupings to urge Israel to appreciate the importance of the present opportunity to establish a durable and just peace.

A discussion then took place. A number of ambassadors asked questions about future steps. In his answers, the foreign minister stressed the importance of the participation of all peace-loving states in giving impetus to and activating the peace efforts.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil is expected to meet with the Asian ambassadors in Cairo at 1100 tomorrow within the framework of Egypt's intensive contacts with the ambassadors in Cairo to acquaint them with the developments in the Middle East situation.

Kamil, Asian Ambassadors

NC291100Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with the ambassadors of Asian states in Cairo. This concludes the intensive meetings which the foreign minister has been holding with ambassadors and representatives of various countries in Cairo to acquaint them with the latest developments in the Middle East, the contacts which have followed President as-Sadat's initiative and the reasons for freezing the work of the Political and Military committees between Egypt and Israel.

The meeting was attended by 19 ambassadors and charges d'affaires. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Sa'd 'Afrah, Chief of Protocol Sa'id Hamzah, chief of the Asian Department 'Umar Sharaf, head of the foreign minister's office Ahmad Mahir and Counselor Hamdi Nada.

The meeting lasted 90 minutes, during which Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil reviewed the developments following President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. He also reviewed the stand of various sides since the Cairo conference, the Ismailia meeting and the meeting of the Military and Political committees.

In explaining the Egyptian position, he said that Egypt embarked upon the negotiations with good will to arrive at a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. This settlement will lead to complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in June 1967 and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, along with measures securing the achievement of peace. During the meeting, which was attended by the foreign minister's legal adviser, Husayn Hassunah, Kamil also explained that Israel sought--through its stands, proposals and public statements by its officials--to center attention on peripheral subjects such as that of the settlements, which Israel knows very well that Egypt definitely will not accept.

He noted that Israel reiterated in several statements its nonrecognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Egypt and the whole world consider this subject the basis of the problem and it must be acknowledged if peace efforts are to succeed.

The foreign minister discussed the current phase and said that the channels of contacts and negotiations represented in the Cairo conference and the Political and Military committees are still open. He said that Egypt is prepared to begin negotiations as soon as a suitable climate for the success of these negotiations is created. This means that Israel must grasp the substance of President as-Sadat's initiative and respond to Egypt's sincere desire for the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added that this means that Israel must review its position and accept the principle of complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He noted that these matters were approved by the international community through UN resolutions, declarations and statements by regional organizations and governments.

Kamil expressed to the ambassadors Egypt's appreciation of the role of the Asian states, whether in their support for Arab rights through the United Nations or through their membership in the nonalined group. He also said that Egypt hopes that the governments of these friendly states will maintain their interest in the developments in the Middle East in order to push the peace efforts forward.

The foreign minister said that through the constant interest and support from the Asian and world states, Israel will learn that it cannot continue in its isolation and in challenging the requirements of peace and the demands of the international community.

A discussion took place at the meeting at which some ambassadors posed questions about the current and the future phase in the peace efforts, particularly President as-Sadat's visit to Washington and the possibilities for resuming the negotiations. Answering the ambassadors, the foreign minister stressed that Egypt is open to all proposals and constructive efforts.

The importance of today's meeting, which was attended by 19 Asian ambassadors in addition to the Australian ambassador, lies in the fact that the ambassadors represent about half of the world population and represent several states of the nonalined group. By this meeting, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will have made important intensive contacts to explain the developments in the situation to more than 100 ambassadors and representatives of world states in Cairo.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL 29 JAN

NC291508Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--President Anwar as-Sadat received Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today.

VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK LEAVES FOR SUDAN 28 JAN

NC280624Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Khartoum on the first leg of his tour of a number of Arab and friendly states.

This part of the Egyptian diplomatic moves to brief these states on the Middle East developments and the results of Egypt's efforts to promote a just and comprehensive settlement in the area.

While in Khartoum, Mubarak will deliver a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on the latest developments related to the peace process in the Middle East, as part of the continuous consultations between the two presidents.

The vice president is scheduled to go from Khartoum to Saudi Arabia to convey a similar message from President as-Sadat to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

GHALI GOES TO BELGRADE WITH AS-SADAT MESSAGE FOR TITO

NC290642Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo early today for Belgrade carrying a message from President Anwar as-Sadat for Yugoslav President Tito connected with the latest developments in the Middle East. During his 3-day visit to Yugoslavia, Dr Ghali will have talks with senior responsible officials as part of the efforts to coordinate the stands of the nonalined states on the situation in the Middle East.

KAMIL: ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM SETTLEMENTS

NC291347Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 January--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has affirmed that Egypt abides by its stand and will not agree to so-called settlements on one inch of its territories.

In a statement to MENA, the foreign minister said that the subject of the settlements comes within the framework of the application of the principle of nonoccupation of territories by force and the need for an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the June 1967 war. Consequently, withdrawal must also include withdrawal from the settlements.

The foreign minister said that the U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Alfred Atherton, is expected to arrive in Cairo on Monday, and that he will be meeting with Mr Atherton the day after Tuesday to discuss any new matters in the light of Atherton's meetings in Israel, and particularly in connection with the declaration of principles.

OFFICIAL SOURCE ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

NC272150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 27 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 January--An official source at the Foreign Ministry has told MENA that Egypt has acquainted the United States with Egypt's stand on the declaration of principles and that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who is aware of the Egyptian stand, is conducting contacts with Israel in this regard. The source added that the working paper or the principles paper which Egypt has sent to the United States includes all the points which must be included in the declaration of principles.

The source pointed out that Egypt's attitude toward the declaration of principles is based mainly on the need to achieve total Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders of Egypt, Jordan and Syria, that these are sacred international borders and that no Egyptian government can accept any changes in Egypt's international borders because of any religious, political or security considerations.

The source added that the Egyptian stand is also based on the need to achieve total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to introduce slight changes on the Israeli and Palestinian sides in the interests of the Palestinian state and Israel.

The source went on to say that the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people must be upheld and that agreement must be reached on the method of applying these principles. The official source stressed that Egypt considers it necessary for the Palestinians to participate in any discussions connected with their own problem and that Egypt is prepared to participate in a committee which would include the Palestinians, Jordan, Israel and the United States to discuss ways of applying the right of self-determination and the question of the forces which will participate in maintaining peace after the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

The source said that Egypt is seeking the declaration of principles and that the Palestinian participation in the implementation is mandatory because Egypt does not speak in their name and has no power to discuss details on their behalf, but its national and historic commitment prompts it to seek the declaration of principles regarding their legitimate rights.

The Egyptian source said that the pretext that the settlements are necessary for security reasons is a big lie and there is no logical or legal basis which permits the presence of these settlements--a continuous military presence which Egypt absolutely does not accept and strongly rejects.

The source denied that Egypt and Israel were close to an agreement during the Jerusalem discussions. He said there was a wide gap in their points of view. He said that Egypt hopes that the U.S. role will aid the acquisition of just principles for a just, comprehensive and durable peace based on total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Arab territory and the right of self-determination for the Palestinians.

KAMIL ADDRESSES PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES 28 JAN

NC2816402Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] A joint meeting of the Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees was held in the People's Assembly today under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said at the meeting that President as-Sadat's historic peace initiative has gone beyond being the most serious political decision adopted by the head of the biggest Arab state: It has become a world initiative that has caused a fundamental change in the whole world. He said that by its initiative Egypt has proved that it is capable of accepting the challenge of the struggle for peace with the same courage it had in waging the war.

He emphasized that Egypt is able to continue the peace process because of its clear vision and strength, and because of world support. It will not permit our nation to live again in a state of no war, no peace as it did in the past. Egypt is working for the Arab interest with complete awareness; hence its call on all sides to participate in the peace talks.

Any attempts to isolate Egypt are doomed to failure. Those who are trying to isolate Egypt are trying to isolate themselves.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: Our national and pan-Arab demand will not settle for a compromise solution and Egypt will not bargain over its right or over the rights of the Palestinian people. Israel must be more aware in its understanding of the peace initiative. By its courageous move Egypt has made Israel face a decisive historic responsibility and has reduced it to its actual size. The responsibility for losing peace will be borne by those who attempt to frustrate this historic opportunity. Egypt is always eager to invite all sides concerned and the two superpowers, which are assigned by the international community to chair the Middle East peace meeting. He said that Egypt appreciates the constructive role the United States is playing.

He said Egypt is acting completely in the open. It has announced all the major decisions it has made from the People's Assembly rostrum. The Egyptian leadership derives its strength from the firm and conscious stand of the Egyptian people.

He then explained the dimensions of the Egyptian concept of the next phase of work, explaining that it will be characterized by further efforts. He said Egypt is determined to continue to work for a just and lasting peace so that the peoples in the area may achieve progress and peace. Egypt will always carry the banner of what is right, the banner of right and struggle to bring about a just and lasting peace. This is its destiny.

At the outset of his speech, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained the nature of the peace initiative and the steps that followed it, from the Ismailia meeting up to the meetings of the Political and Military committees.

Al-'Utayfi Statement

NC2820022Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Dr. Jamal al-'Utayfi, People's Assembly deputy speaker and Foreign Relations Committee chairman, made a statement after the closed 3-hour meeting which was held by the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees today. He said that all aspects of the negotiations situation were discussed: the role of the United States, the relations with the Soviet Union, and the real concept of Arab solidarity in the light of the clear principled policy. Dr al-'Utayfi explained that through the debates, the following facts were confirmed:

1. The peace initiative has become the property of all peoples aspiring to a just and lasting peace in the area. We must maintain the momentum and the widespread support the initiative has received throughout the world.

2. In its eagerness to safeguard Arab solidarity, Egypt rejects the attitude of outbidding. It also believes that wait-and-see attitudes are not positive and are not conducive to the establishment of effective Arab solidarity.

3. The cohesiveness of the internal front is to be commended. The strengthening of Egyptian intrinsic power is an affirmation that Egypt will not settle for peace at any price and that the peace it will accept is peace based on justice through a comprehensive settlement in accordance with the UN resolutions.

4. While appreciating the positive development in the U.S. stand, we look forward to a more effective and decisive effort to influence Israel's attitude, which has not risen to the level of the Egyptian peace initiative. We believe that the continued supply of arms to Israel in the present circumstances, after Israel's intransigent stand, does not serve the peace efforts in which the United States is participating.

5. Egypt believes in maintaining balanced relations with all countries, including the East European socialist states which have adopted principled stands in support of the Arab rights. Egypt does not refuse to have normal relations with the Soviet Union provided the Soviet side plays a positive role that will help in the achievement of peace.

Radio Correspondent's Report

NC291909Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[From the radio newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today asserted Egypt's adherence to the principles President Anwar as-Sadat has declared with regard to the Middle East peace talks. Kamil was speaking during the joint meeting of the Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees in the People's Assembly under Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i.

The details of what took place during the meeting are reported by our correspondent Amin as-Sawi:

[Begin recording] At the beginning, the meeting was public. The foreign minister made a comprehensive statement on the latest developments in the situation. Sayyid Mar'i then asked the journalists to leave the hall because the committees wanted to hold a closed meeting.

In his statement, the foreign minister said that the president's peace initiative represented a clear visition of what the world would be like under the canopy of a just peace and what it would be like under the canopy of wars as a result of the other side's nonresponse and lack of realization and understanding of the dimensions of the situation. The foreign minister also explained that Israel continues to fabricate formal procedures with a view to obstructing the efforts that are being exerted to achieve a just and lasting solution.

He emphasized that Egypt always works completely openly and is eager to achieve a comprehensive, just solution. This attitude has won it the confidence and respect of the peoples of the free world, whereas the other side resorts to maneuvers by making statements at times and by [announcing]--at other times its welf-proclaimed right to establish settlements on Egyptian territory in Sinai, thus throwing over the wall all the positions adopted by the United Nations and international forums. This was done after it had become apparent to it that Egypt insists on the need to regain the territories occupied in 1967 and on the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, and that Egypt is not prepared to bargain or to settle for compromise solutions.

After the conclusion of the session, Dr al-'Utayfi [assembly deputy speaker] announced that the peace initiative has now gone beyond being the most serious political decision adopted by the president of the largest Arab state: It has become a world initiative which the world defends and bears the consequences of, the world stands firmly against those obstructing this initiative.

He asserted that Egypt has declared its stand clearly; that it will not permit our Arab nation to live again in a state of no peace, no war as happened in the past. Thus, it is working within the framework of Arab nationalism and with complete awareness. Any attempt to isolate it will fail. Experiences of the recent and distant past have proved this.

Finally, the foreign minister warned that the struggle in the area will become more dangerous if the initiative meets with any kind of failure.

The committee [singular as heard] debate continued for over 3 hours, during which it was deemed appropriate to seek the views of all sides in the committee. It reached the conclusion that Egypt continues to believe in maintaining balanced relations with all countries, including the socialist states, which have adopted principled stands in support of the Arab rights. It does not refuse to have normal relations with the Soviet Union provided the Soviet side is prepared to play a positive role that will help in the attainment of peace. [end recording]

Opposition Demands Firm Line

MC300955Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0194 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 January--The Egyptian paper AL-AHRAR, organ of the opposition Socialist Liberal Party, reports today that the Egyptian opposition deputies who are members of that party demanded at the joint meeting of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees the day before yesterday that the negotiations with Israel be halted and not be resumed unless the bases for negotiations are clear and there is a commitment by Israel to totally withdraw to the 1967 borders and recognize the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

The paper adds that the opposition deputies demanded at the meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, that Israel's maneuvers and the intransigent attitude of the Israeli negotiator be countered by a firm stand on the part of Egypt now that the initiative of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has revealed Israel's true intentions.

REACTION TO ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY REPORTED

MC281118Y Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[By Daniel Priollet]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Jan 28 (AFP)--Political circles here concluded today there was a tie between the current status of Israeli-Egyptian talks and the U.S. statement this week that Israel has atomic weapons. Although news of the U.S. statement went unreported in the local press, the circles were well aware that it was the first time that the United States had publicly named Israel as a nuclear power.

There was no mistaking America's intention to show the Arab world that there were limits to how far Israel could be pushed in the search for peace, it was understood.

The Egyptian circles dismissed the idea that release of the statement by the Central Intelligence Agency was a "mistake" as the agency has claimed. Coming as it did at a crucial moment in the stalled peace talks, the circles said, made it look that much less like an oversight.

The nuclear weapons question will no doubt be taken up by President Anwar as-Sadat when he meets President Carter in Washington, probably next week.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE DENIES REPORTED TRANSFERS

NC282003Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2059 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 January--A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry this evening published reports of diplomatic transfers at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry involving several ambassadors. The source said that this report is groundless.

AL-AKHBAR WARNS U.S. ABOUT USE OF 'QUIET DIPLOMACY'

LD262343Y Cairo Al-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Article by Chief Editor Musa Sabri: "The Quiet Diplomacy"]

[Text] Yes, we do support the idea that "quiet diplomacy" at this difficult stage is the way to deal with the crisis of peace. Yes, we support the "quiet" role the State Department's envoy Atherton is now playing in Jerusalem and which will require him to come to Cairo in order to continue the "quiet contacts" regarding the American paperwork proposed to both sides.

But if what American columnist James Reston said in a recent article--that the American administration does not wish now to intervene decisively and prefers to wait and to be patient--is true and if this reflects the views of the White House, or if as Reston said, Carter's administration knows what it is going to recommend to both sides and what it is going to say to the Egyptian and Israeli governments but prefers to wait for the suitable moment, then we would call this U.S. attitude "slow" and not the "quiet" diplomacy. This studied slowness in defining the U.S. stand could cause the most serious damage to the cause of peace and could even damage the U.S. reputation in the Arab world.

"Quiet" diplomacy means holding political contacts while avoiding the exchange of public statements and heating up the crisis. But it never means adopting a negative attitude relying on patience and on marking time before the United States exercises its responsibility toward peace. Also, this does not mean that Egypt wants to speed up the natural course of events but it does mean that the U.S. attitude is evidently facing a test. It means that the Israeli negotiator is always capable of achieving the purpose of procrastination and of creating difficulties so that international enthusiasm for the Egyptian initiative will fade.

Obviously this leading American writer did not publish this as his own views but as a report. He has reflected the views of the American administration at a time when we hear official U.S. statements saying that the negotiations will be resumed within a week or 10 days. I believe Reston but do not believe these statements.

We warn the negative American diplomacy that if such is the decision of the U.S. administration, we welcome quiet diplomacy if it does not reflect a negative attitude but we do not accept the time factor being used as a means to weaken the situation. The rapid exploitation of time is through commitment to defining attitudes, especially now that the intentions of the Israeli Government have become clear to all.

It is no secret that the Soviet Union's views on the principles of peace agreement are no different from those of the United States. This is evident in the joint U.S.-Soviet statement which was issued 4 months ago. But if the United States waits long before it defines its attitude, it will be giving the Soviet Union and all its agents a full opportunity to succeed in destroying the great hopes and the deep trust that the Arab peoples have put in the soundness and capability of the U.S. position.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT'S ENVOY ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN271614Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 January--Boualem Benhamouda, Algerian minister of public works and envoy of President Houari Boumediene to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, arrived in Baghdad today. The envoy said that his visit to Iraq is within the framework of the continued consultation between the two countries on the current Arab situation.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN281102Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received in his office in the presidential palace here today Boualem Benhamouda, Algerian minister of public works and President Houari Boumediene's envoy. Boualem Benhamouda conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the current circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing in general and the Palestinian issue in particular.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and minister of public works and housing, and the Algerian charge d'affaires in Baghdad. Envoy Boualem arrived in Baghdad last night.

Concludes Visit

JN281708Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--Boualem Benhamouda, Algerian minister of public works and President Houari Boumediene's envoy, left Baghdad this evening after a 24-hour visit to Iraq.

In a statement prior to his departure, the Algerian envoy said that he had conveyed a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from President Boumediene dealing with the current situation in the Arab area. He added that he is carrying a message to President Boumediene from President al-Bakr.

The Algerian envoy was seen off at Baghdad International Airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and minister of housing and public works.

IRAQ WILL NOT ATTEND ALGIERS SUMMIT MEETING

JN281830Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 28 January--The Iraqi official spokesman made the following statement today: The Iraqi Government has become acquainted with the efforts currently being made by several fraternal Arab states to convene a summit meeting in Algiers this weekend to be attended by the sides which signed the recent Tripoli statement. The Iraqi Republic declares that it has nothing to do with this invitation because Iraq withdrew from the Tripoli conference for the reasons explained at the time to the Arab masses and to all the sides concerned.

Iraq, which has taken a constant stand toward the capitulatory policies and the imperialist-Zionist designs, cannot participate in any conference unless it is certain beforehand that the prerequisites exist to achieve results which will provide actual capabilities for steadfastness and confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist design and the capitulatory policies. These prerequisites are no longer a secret to anyone. The Iraqi Government will define its position toward any meeting or conference in light of the practical results achieved in this direction.

ENVOY TO PDRY DELIVERS LETTER ON ALGIERS REUSAL

JN292013Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Mahammad Mahjub, personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr to PDRY Presidential Council Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, and RCC member and minister of education, returned to Baghdad this evening following a short visit to the PDRY during which he delivered a letter from President al-Bakr to Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. The letter deals with the current Arab situation and the reasons which prompted Iraq not to participate in the Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Algiers early next month.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY 'AZIZ RETURNS FROM LIBYAN VISIT

JN300800Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 January--Tariq 'Aziz, personal envoy of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, returned here this morning following a brief visit to Libya. During the visit, 'Aziz conveyed a written message to leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from President al-Bakr dealing with the current Arab situation and the reason which prompted Iraq not to participate in the Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Algiers early next month.

Education Minister Muhammad Mahjub yesterday conveyed a similar message to PDRY leader Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

BAGHDAD RADIO COMMENTS ON ATHERTON'S VISIT TO AMMAN

JN270844Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] AP reports that Atheron's visit to Amman today and tomorrow and his meeting with U.S. ambassadors [words indistinct] are a routine matter.

Other reports commented on [word indistinct], saying that Atherton's visit is an attempt to cover-up the talks which he will hold with King Husayn on the latter's joining the settlement talks. These reports add that this step is part of the current U.S. efforts in this connection.

Previous reports have disclosed that secret talks were taking place between the Zionist entity and the Jordanian regime. These reports note that Hikmat al-Masri, former speaker of the Jordanian parliament, who is now residing in the occupied West Bank, has paid several visits to Amman. These reports expect the official visit of Hikmat al-Masri to Amman, on which an announcement was made recently, [words indistinct] holding consultations on the Jordanian regime's joining of the settlement talks.

CIA, MOROCCO ACCUSED OF HELPING IRAQIS LEAVE COUNTRY

JN291314Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 January--A responsible source at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry today announced that the action taken by 35 Iraqi persons in seeking refuge in the United States is concocted by various sides and aimed at offending Iraq and its national revolution.

The spokesman said that leading these sides is the CIA and Moroccan Government institutions. He also categorically denied that those persons were subjected to religious oppression in Iraq and said: This is completely untrue.

AMMAN REPORTS ON VISIT BY U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

JN271843Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton arrived in Amman this morning. Atherton will hold a meeting of the U.S. ambassadors in the area this evening.

His Majesty King Husayn will receive Atherton tomorrow. Atherton will brief his majesty on the U.S. position regarding the peace talks in the Middle East. He will also brief His Majesty King Husayn on the picture of the general situation from the U.S. point of view.

Received by Husayn

JN281543Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 January--His Majesty King Husayn today received Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Mr Atherton conveyed to his majesty a letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the U.S. stance regarding the current situation in the Middle East. Mr Atherton also explained the U.S. view on the current situation and conveyed to his majesty the views of U.S. officials on future developments.

His majesty asked Mr Atherton to convey his good wishes to the U.S. President and his appreciation of the President's efforts in contributing to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Atherton Departs

JN291614Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Amman today for Israel after a 2-day visit to Jordan.

KING HUSAYN SENDS LETTER TO KUWAITI AMIR

JN291712Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] It was announced in Kuwait today that His Majesty King Husayn sent a letter yesterday to Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the letter deals with the current Arab situation and the endeavors to unify Arab action and reach the desired results. He added that the amir also received a similar letter from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

The Kuwaiti minister of state affirmed that President as-Sadat's visit to the United States this week will have special significance for peace talks in the Middle East. He said that consultations and coordination are continuing among the Arab countries, particularly between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, but there is no practical way to cement the rift in Arab ranks until the situation becomes clearer.

KING HUSAYN RESTATES POSITION ON MIDEAST PROBLEM

DW300807Y Hamburg Domestic Television Service in German 1820 GMT 29 Jan 78 DW

[Correspondent Stenzel interview with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman, date not given--recorded in English, fading to German translation]

[Text] [Question] I asked King Husayn whether he had agreed to the new formula of President as-Sadat for the solution of the Palestinian problem, namely, first, autonomy for a limited period and then, second, self-determination.

[Answer] As far as autonomy is concerned it must be the result of an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in June 1967, the Egyptian and Syrian territories, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. As far as the Palestinian territories are concerned they must be placed under international control. Then it will be necessary to come to terms on whether this autonomy will be temporarily limited or will serve to prepare the people for self-determination.

Be it as it may, the decisive point is the withdrawal of the Israelis from all territories mentioned. Minor corrections on the West Bank are possible in mutual agreement, for this is a cease-fire line rather than an ideal, permanent border. The Israeli pullout, however, must include Jerusalem and not just the holy places and the old city. Israel has incorporated these areas in the Israeli part of Jerusalem despite the resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council and these areas now comprise nearly one-third of the West Bank. The Israelis must withdraw, and these territories must be under Arab sovereignty again.

[Question] Suppose President as-Sadat's peace initiative fails, will war be the only consequence?

[Answer] I think if that fails it will be fairly clear that Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the Geneva peace conference will be out of the question for a solution. It would spell a total change in the conditions in this region, unless the Israelis change their attitude. But I do not see that for the immediate future. The danger of clashes between the Israelis and Arabs will considerably increase and maybe the Israelis on their part will try to change the conditions fundamentally to their advantage and to create new realities by means of their military strength. Whatever it may be, it will lead to a catastrophe for this region and for the world.

BUTRUS REGRETS ATTACK ON TUNISIAN EMBASSY

NC300622Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus has expressed regret over the incident to which the Tunisian Embassy in Beirut was subjected yesterday. He said such actions are futile and useless. He added that the Lebanese authorities will adopt all measures to protect the Tunisian Embassy and all embassies in Lebanon.

The Arab deterrent forces command yesterday said that a TNT bomb weighing about 1 kg exploded at the office of the Tunisian Embassy in Beirut causing material loss only. The security forces have been asked to investigate the incident and guard the embassy.

PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE FORCE REPORTED IN SIDON

JN271405Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beriut, 27 January--The Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance have decided to form a joint force to supervise security in Sidon. A statement issued today said that the decision to form this force was adopted at a joint meeting of the commands of the nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance held last night.

STRIKE OCCUPS IN SAIDA FOLLOWING CLASHES

TA281548Y Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 28 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Saida, south Lebanon, Jan 28 (AFP)--A near-general strike took hold here today following dawn clashes between unidentified armed forces. The clashes left several wounded and caused considerable damage in the town's old quarters.

Later officials of all Palestinian organizations in the town met the Central Political Council of the progressive Lebanese parties. This meeting decided to withdraw all armed elements from the old town and to end all causes of tension. Progressive Palestinian officials agreed to keep in the town only political and information centers, and to transfer armed elements outside the city. They also urged the state to assume its responsibilities for security and social services inside as well as in the outskirts of Saida.

Since 1976 units of the Arab Dissuasion Force (FAD) have been based in Saida, which was controlled by left-wing and Palestinian forces during the civil war.

JOINT FORCES REPORTEDLY SINK ISRAELI SHIP

NC290838Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 29 January--The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today reports that the joint progressive-Palestinian forces last Thursday sank a medium-sized Israeli ship carrying ammunition and arms from Israel to the isolationist groups in Lebanon. Quoting sources of the joint forces, the paper says that the ship was sunk several kilometres off Sidon following a fight involving boats of the joint forces and the isolationist ship's guards, who resisted the attempt to have the ship searched. The paper adds that three isolationists were taken prisoner when the ship was sunk and that they admitted the ship was carrying hundreds of rifles, large quantities of ammunition and rockets. They also admitted that they had made three trips from Haifa to an area near Juniyah harbor.

RIGHTISTS RECEIVE SHIPLOAD OF ARMS, AMMUNITION

JN281555Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 January--The rightist forces in Lebanon today received large consignments of arms and ammunition, which were unloaded by a cargo ship in Juniyah harbor, 15 km north of Beirut.

The Palestinian news agency which distributed the report said that a second ship will arrive at the above-mentioned harbor from the FRG within the coming week in implementation of agreements reached by Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the rightist forces and chairman of the Phalangist War Council, and Abu Arz, official in charge of the rightist Guards of the Cedars organization, with arms traffickers during their visit to Bonn a few weeks ago. The agency warned that the rightist quarters are preparing for a new battle against the Palestinian resistance. It said that this fact explains the information campaign which was begun by the rightist information media 2 weeks ago and the reports alleging a flow of arms to southern Lebanese ports for the Palestinian revolution.

U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT BEIRUT 1 FEBRUARY

JN282103Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut press sources said today that an unnamed U.S. official is expected in Beirut 1 February to hold talks with a number of Lebanese officials and politicians. This was disclosed by the paper AL-BAYRAQ, which added that the official will study the Lebanese situation and the developments in the Arab region.

CLASHES REPORTED AROUND VILLAGES IN SOUTH

NC281128Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1116 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 28 January--The Israeli enemy forces this morning continued shelling villages in southern Lebanon. Some citizens were killed or wounded and some houses and crops were destroyed. Travelers from An-Nabatiyah say that the clashes continued throughout last night and this morning and were centered near Arnun and Tallat Lubiya. Meanwhile clashes between the Lebanese front forces, supported by the Israeli forces, and the joint Lebanese and Palestinian forces continued today in various areas.

BAGHDAD VOP REPORTS ON FIGHTING IN SOUTH

JN262000Y Bagho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The isolat. nist artillery supported by the artillery of the Zionist enemy today continued its shelling of the populated areas and the positions of the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement in southern Lebanon. Reports from the south said today that the town of An-Nabatiyah was exposed to concentrated isolationist shelling throughout last night. The shelling resulted in the destruction of a number of houses and the injury of a number of citizens.

In the eastern sector of southern Lebanon, the isolationists employed rockets and tank fire in the fiercest shelling in months against the town of Al-Khiyam. The shelling resulted in the deaths of at least three citizens. The Bint Jubayl axis in the middle sector was exposed to showers of shells which continued until dawn today. No details have been received on losses.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LEAVES FOR ALGIERS

JN301130Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Damascus for Algiers at 1000 today to attend the steadfast states foreign ministers conference due to begin in the Algerian capital tomorrow.

AFP: BA'TH DELEGATION WILL NOT GO TO ALGIERS

TA291706Y Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 29 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Damascus, Jan 29 (AFP)--The dominant Ba'th Socialist Party in Syria has halted a delegation due to leave here today for an Algiers reconciliation meeting with representatives of the party's rival Iraqi wing, an informed source said.

The meeting, in the presence of Algerian leaders, was intended to settle differences between the two wings, dominant in their countries.

Informed circles said the Syrian decision could be due to a sudden hardening in the views of Iraq, which announced yesterday it would not attend a second Arab "firmness summit" in Algiers next Thursday against recent Egyptian Middle East initiatives.

Syria is to take part in this summit. There was no official Syrian reaction today to the Iraqi attitude, with the press refraining from comment.

The Syrian delegation headed by Muhammad Hiadar, a member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, was to include General Nagi Jamil, deputy defense minister and air force commander, and Mahmoud Hadid, chairman of the General Federation of Syrian Workers Trade Unions.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON ATHERTON'S EFFORTS

JN280757Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" column, ATH-THAWRAH today speaks about the base of steadfastness and confrontation of the U.S. solution.

ATH-THAWRAH says: The New York TIMES yesterday quoted government sources as saying that Egypt and Israel are about to reach an agreement on principles. This agreement is based on the main lines of the statement made by Carter after his talks with As-Sadat in Aswan.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Before going into the details of the bases of such an agreement we must point out two events which have an effect on the so-called "dramatic progress." One is connected with the resumption of military negotiations in Cairo during the coming week. This means that the problem of Zionist security has been settled at secondary meetings and by behind-the-scene efforts. This settlement will definitely be in the interest of Israel alone judging by Egypt's admission and As-Sadat's recent speech in which he stressed the importance of security to Israel.

The other event is the holding of another summit conference between As-Sadat and Begin under Carter's canopy in Washington. This means that the U.S. administration has secured the approval of the two sides to the conditions of the separate settlement between them. Atherton has said something to this effect.

Atherton has been maintaining the warmth of the climate between Israel and Egypt following the so-called suspension of political negotiations. Atherton said: This has been achieved thanks to the quiet diplomacy which we are trying to follow. In other words, the United States has succeeded in preventing the efforts for achieving a settlement from failing.

ATH-THAWRAH asks: What kind of a settlement is this on the basis of which remarkable progress was achieved thanks to U.S. efforts? The answer brings us face to face with Carter's principles, which in brief are: 1) Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 but not from the occupied territories, 2) the signing of an agreement on secure borders within the context of normal relations between the parties taking part in the peace process, and 3) solving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. In accordance with such a solution, the Palestinians may take part in determining their future.

These principles are quite similar to what Egypt and Israel have been trying to achieve. This means that what was said about a disagreement was merely imaginary, or a tempest in a tea cup. This aims at dragging certain parties to the table of capitulation and finding a substitute for the PLO on which Egypt, the Zionist entity and the United States are agreed.

But regardless of its efforts, this alliance will not be able to implement its schemes. The base of steadfastness and resistance is strengthening and will continue to confront the U.S. solution with firmness backed by the entire Arab nation and its patriotic and progressive forces.

RADIO VIEWS AS-SADAT'S VISIT PLANS; AUGERS RESHUFFLE

JN282143Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--It was officially announced in Cairo today that Anwar as-Sadat, head of the Egyptian regime, will pay an official visit to the United States on 4 February at the invitation of U.S. President Carter. MENA reported that the aim of the 2-day visit is to review the results of the negotiations taking place between the representatives of the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity and the means to insure the progress of these negotiations with the aim of reaching a separate settlement between the two sides.

On the other hand, a wide-scale reshuffle will take place soon at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The reshuffle will affect 35 ambassadors. News agencies cited press sources in Cairo as saying that Egyptian Foreign Ministry under Secretary Jamal Mansur, has been nominated to the post of Egyptian ambassador to Yugoslavia to succeed Ambassador Murad Ghalib, who recently resigned in protest against As-Sadat's capitulationist visit to occupied Palestine. Some 18 ambassadors, whose names and the capitals they are accredited to are not yet known, will be pensioned off.

PAPER EDITORIALIZES ON ARAB STEADFASTNESS MEETING

JN301100Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the conference of the front of steadfastness and confrontation which will be held in Algiers, the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes:

The current events in our Arab area, coupled with the suspicious moves surrounding them, are a source of concern which impels us to say that should there be no sound course or crucial and swift move to face those schemes, which are actually being matched, a catastrophe would befall our area--affecting all our pan-Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian people's cause--as well as our friends in Africa and certain countries neighbouring the Arab homeland which have close ties with the Arab nation.

We say this at a time when the leaders of the front of steadfastness are preparing to hold their second conference in Algiers. The Arab masses place great hopes on the front of steadfastness because it has become the only force capable of confronting the enemy schemes. However, these masses wish that all the Arab countries and forces would participate in the front of steadfastness which is, as described by a Palestinian revolution leader, the main pan-Arab vehicle, particularly at this crucial stage through which the Arab nation is passing.

The paper adds: Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad and in complete consultation and coordination with the brothers in the front of steadfastness, is exerting strenuous efforts to mobilize all the nation's resources and potential to confront the demonic scheme which is being hatched against the aspirations of our masses. Syria has called upon all Arab sides to bypass all peripheral issues and focus on the basic struggle in the Arab area because the peril menaces everybody, without exception.

The paper adds: Ever since As-Sadat made his treasonous visit to Israel, the forces hostile to the Arab nation have been diligently active both inside and outside the Arab area, whereas the Arab forces who were supposed to have adopted a crucial decision regarding the current events are regrettably still conducting dialogs and sometimes maneuvering in this manner or that with the hope that certain things will occur to change the situation and to achieve what they have been working for during the wait-and-see period, which no longer is justified.

In conclusion, the paper says: It is supposed that the period since As-Sadat's visit to Israel is adequate for contemplation and for making suitable decision. However, the way some people keep matters vacillating, as though nothing had happened, is a cause for astonishment and wonder, particularly since everything has now become clear not only for Egypt's ruler but also for the United States. It has been ascertained that the United States is keen on Israel and its interests, even more so than Begin himself.

RADIO CITES CIA ON ISRAEL'S PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS

JN271319Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] The CIA disclosed in an official report yesterday that Israel has been producing atomic weapons since 1974 due to the availability of uranium it managed to get through secret and illegal methods as was previously reported. It should be recalled that this report released by the CIA is the first official U.S. confirmation of the existence of nuclear weapons in Israel.

A CIA spokesman stated last Thursday that disclosure of these reports was made by mistake and that some of these documents should have been kept secret. The published documents said that Israel obtained uranium through a theft from a factory of atomic material in Apollo, Pennsylvania, in the sixties.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES WPC MESSAGE ON MIDEAST

LD292348Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and of the Council of the Revolution, has received a message from the chairman of the World Peace Council [WPC] relating to the development of events in the Middle East. On the subject of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, the message states that the so-called Cairo preparatory conference, called to conceal the negotiations (?undertaken elsewhere), serves the interests of imperialism and [words indistinct]. American policy continually attempts to establish other American military reconnaissance bases to allow Israel to colonize the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to unite Israel and the reactionary Arab regimes in an American plan to involve the imposition of the multinational companies on the Arab national economies.

The World Peace Council is firmly convinced, adds the message, that the establishment of a just and stable peace can only be obtained by a final and [word indistinct] solution to the crisis, the conditions of which are [words indistinct] the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the achievement of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the founding of their independent state, and securing the right to a peaceful existence for all the countries and peoples of the area. The message stresses that the way to such a solution is through the convening of the Geneva conference on the Middle East.

SYRIAN, IRAQI DELEGATIONS EXPECTED TO MEET IN ALGIERS

LD291734Y Algiers APS in French 1500 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, APS--It is learned from a source close to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Syrian and Iraqi delegations are expected in Algiers today.

The two delegations will meet in a joint committee on 29 and 30 January, with Algerian presence, to bring closer the positions of the two fraternal countries.

In addition it is confirmed that the meeting of ministers of foreign affairs and ministers of defense [from the front of steadfastness] will be held on 31 January and 1 February and that a summit conference will be held on 2 and 3 February 1978.

LIBYA

PLO'S 'ARAFAT CALLS ON AL-QADHDHAFI FOR SUPPORT

LD281742Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has received the following message from Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee:

Your Excellency brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, revolutionary greetings:

Since the visit of President as-Sadat to our occupied land and his speech at the Knesset, the Cairo meeting, the visit of the enemy's prime minister to Egypt and his meeting with President as-Sadat in Ismailia, developments have taken dangerous forms with regard to the march of Arab struggle in general and the Palestinian struggle in particular.

The ensuing statements of U.S. President Carter and U.S. officials took the same course, clearly aimed against the Palestinian people and their armed revolution and the PLO in its role of sole legitimate representative of our struggling people.

All these hostile statements were part of a strong wave of hostility against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and constituted an attempt to impose a capitulatory peace in which Israeli-U.S. terms would be imposed on our Arab nation and it would be brought to its knees and humiliated.

The greatest hostility was directed against the Palestinian people and their firm national right, including their right to return, their right to self-determination and their right to establish an independent state on their land and as defined by Arab summit meetings in Algiers, Rabat and Cairo, Islamic summits in Lahore and summit meetings of the nonalined, in addition to UN resolutions, in particular Resolution (?3236).

I am confident, Your Excellency, that you share with me the opinion that a big plot is now being implemented against our Palestinian people and Arab nation by imperialist-Zionist-colonialist ambitions aimed at liquidating the cause of our Palestinian people and humiliating, containing and encircling the Arab nation--something that requires from the brother Arab officials speedy and firm measures to confront all of this to protect the rights of our Palestinian people and their just cause, the central issue in the (?dangerous colonialist Arab-Zionist conflict).

I am confident that a move at the Arab and international levels and among friends in the world can greatly benefit the Palestinian cause at present and provide support and backing for the Palestinian people and their armed revolution and just cause, concentrating on our firm national rights, particularly our right to return and establish our independent state over our national soil.

I want to confirm to you, brother Colonel, that our people expect a great deal from you in view of the plots aimed at disowning Palestine and its people. These are precedents that cannot be ignored and the world must be assured that all Arab countries, and in the forefront your sister country, will not tolerate this dangerous turn against the Palestinian people and will stand by the PLO and justice.

Finally, I send you and your people, personally and on behalf of the PLO and the Palestinian people, warm fraternal greetings, urging God to direct all our steps toward what is good for our nation.

[Signed] Your brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and general commander of the Palestinian revolution forces.

RADIO GIVES WARNING ABOUT ENEMIES OF REVOLUTION

LD272336Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Here we have a revolution which is the great 1 September Revolution. When we say here we have a revolution we are not saying anything new but only stating a fact. However, by stating that here there is a revolution we wish to draw attention to the fact that the revolution has enemies, friends, supporters and detractors on the local level, Arab level and international level.

While it is alright for the revolution here to expand the circle of its friends through dialogs, actions and accomplishments and through positive stands adopted along the road of building internally and externally, the revolution cannot claim or delude its masses and itself into believing that it has crushed its enemies or that its enemies have diminished. This is because the enemy could be a national, pan-Arab or class enemy according to the economic, social, ideological or political nature of the enmity.

The enemy works with persistence, patience, zeal and calm to harm the revolution or destroy it or trim down its revolutionary laws thus turning the revolution into a mere state. The men of the state then turn into a new class and the men of the new class would then try to imitate the men of the old class. Thus the end is reached and the counterrevolutionary forces triumph.

There is considerable evidence here in the land of the great 1 September. They prove to us that the revolution with its principal forces and true thinking and long breath and wonderful ability to move and intercept is determined to remain truly and actually a revolution. This means that the torch of the revolution must never dim or go out.

Whatever good intentions and, at times, seriousness the revolution shows, its enemies will always be enemies, particularly as their enmity is not individual or personal and not even a political enmity or enmity based on positive differences but as we said, it is an enmity that stems from interests, privileges and struggle for money, economic benefits and influence. Hence, the biggest mistake a revolution can commit is to stand silent or isolated when the existing conditions demand that it act effectively by offering support and aid to the masses of friends and allies everywhere. In this context, the safety of the revolution means in one of its aspects the safety of the Arab masses everywhere and particularly the safety of the forces of the allied and friendly majority.

But a triumphant revolution, that is, a revolution that has seized power is at the same time a state. States have their international and legal commitments that are agreed upon and cannot be easily violated. This is what is usually called international legitimacy.

This is true at least theoretically, though we have witnessed numerous cases when the so-called international legitimacy has been violated and burned here and there in the world.

Laws, however great, glittering or holy they might be, have originally been promulgated for the sake of man himself. Then in all cases man is above all laws and legislation. We normally say that man is the goal and the means.

Now we wish to say a word to this man. Be this we mean Arab citizens everywhere. We say: If certain conditions develop that compel those in politics to remain silent then rights--and by this we mean your own rights--cannot abide such a policy of silence, for right is always frank and outspoken. In the name of these rights, we say to the Arab man everywhere: We are with you. We follow your battles. We live your conditions, at least conscientiously and psychologically. For sure, the revolution here is with the revolution everywhere in the Arab homeland. A revolution does not have to be triumphant so that we may be with it. A revolution might need a series of battles and clashes and it might take a long time before it finally triumphs. The greatest revolutions are the martyred revolutions, that is, the foiled ones.

Now let us draw your attention to another issue: The enemies of the revolution, the enemies of the popular masses usually resort to wornout tricks and tactics to detract from the honor of the revolutionary movement and the holiness of the upsurge. Such tricks and tactics are the carrying-out by agents of the ruling clique of individual acts of looting, arson and anarchy and then the attribution of all that to the masses who had moved in a revolutionary manner by their upsurge so these actions may be used as a pretext to justify acts such as beatings, shootings, arrests, liquidation and other methods of suppression.

In this case, we say that the people who stage the revolution or the upsurge cannot be deceived by such tricks and tactics. The public consciousness is capable of baring all facts and pinpointing and redressing everything.

If politics kept silent in the name of the legitimate, legal or diplomatic right, we talk in the name of the revolutionary or masses right. Right is always above and before politics.

In this regard, we must not neglect to say that reaction and the forces of exploitation and domination often distort the facts and often find people who agree to be tools in the hands of these forces to suppress the masses.

But the recent affairs and developments that have taken place in some parts of the Arab homeland have proven the extent of the strength of the masses and their determination to retrieve their rights even if they had to pay for it with large numbers of martyrs and victims. The road of struggle from the dawn of history to this very day has never been strewn with flowers, but has been and still is drenched with blood.

SUDAN

EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM

NC280816Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpts] The radio's correspondent in Khartoum reports that President Ja'far Numayri received Vice President Husni Mubarak at 0945 today.

Husni Mubarak arrived in Khartoum at 0915 today accompanied by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz beginning a tour of several Arab and friendly states.

Meets With Numayri

LD281854Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Khartoum today with a message for President Numayri from President as-Sadat. Speaking to Omdurman radio at the airport, Mubarak said that his visit comes within the framework of the regular consultation and exchanges of ideas conducted by the two presidents.

"On the possibility of a resumption of the peace talks between Egypt and Israel, Mr Husni Mubarak said: Egypt has not closed the door to peace which it took the initiative to open. He reiterated Egypt's desire for a lasting peace in the Middle East region based on justice."

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister, told the radio that in his message President as-Sadat briefed President Numayri on the latest developments following Egypt's decision to withdraw its delegation from the joint Political Committee.

"He said: Mr Husni Mubarak has now briefed President Numayri on the contacts currently being made in the light of expected developments in the Middle East situation. He stressed that in its move for peace, Egypt, just like Sudan, hopes that the peace initiative, the trail of which was blazed by President as-Sadat, should continue to survive and develop despite the obstacles and difficulties created by Israel from time to time.

Husni Mubarak will also visit Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan.

Mubarak Leaves Khartoum

NC281129Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1118 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Khartoum, 28 January--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Khartoum this morning for Riyadh after meeting with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and conveying an oral message to him from President Anwar as-Sadat.

Vice President Mubarak's visit to Sudan lasted about 2 hours.

SUDAN TO KEEP PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN LEBANON

LD281854Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the republic, has responded positively to letters from the Lebanese Government stressing the need for Sudanese troops to remain in Lebanon to preserve its independence.

The Lebanese Government had earlier, in a letter to the president, expressed its confidence that his excellency would accede to the request, particularly since the Sudanese forces, despite the difficulties facing them, had played and were playing a key role in maintaining stability on the life of the Lebanese people.

SUNA reports that following the president's acceptance of the request, the first batch of a fresh contingent of Sudanese troops has been ordered to leave for Lebanon today to replace men already attached to the peace-keeping force. The whole operation will be completed within one week.

TUNISIA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON UNION UNREST, DEMONSTRATIONS

Minister Gives Press Conference

LD280042Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Dhaoui Hannablia, the interior minister, held a press conference at the ministry's headquarters at 1600. The press conference was attended by Secretary of State for Information at the Prime Minister's Office Mustafa Masmoudi, the head of the office of the interior Minister Omar Bijaoui and a large number of the local and foreign press. Some parts of the Tunisian capital and particularly its southern suburbs, he said, in the past few days witnessed disturbances that reached a high degree of intensity, so much so that the Tunisian citizens began shooting at fellow Tunisians.

Hannablia said that the troubles which lately swept the various quarters of the capital and the southern parts of it in particular and to a lesser degree some other towns in the republic assumed the form of acts of agitation, violence and attacks on the others, and looting to which citizens of all denominations were subjected. The attacks were particularly directed against public institutions such as the radio station, television house, banks and vital public utilities, to the citizens and the economy of the country. These utilities included electric generators and the national company for gas and electricity.

Hannablia said that these acts were intended as a proof of the success of the strike decision adopted by the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT]. Anyone who had seen these painful events, he said, observed that as soon as one fire was put out another fire was started. If a fire was put out,for example, at Bab al-Khadra, other fires were lit in Bab al-Jadid and so on. All this proves the existence of a plan to intimidate the citizens and make the people believe that Tunis was burning just as Rome did in the days of Nero.

Hannablia said that the number of fires yesterday reached 29 in Tunis. He added that those incidents did not take place by accident but showed that they were deliberate and preplanned.

He then reviewed the development of events in the past few days. He said that the starting point was the assembly of thousands of members of the UGTT in Mohammed Ali Street particularly in the evenings of last Tuesday and Wednesday. Inflammatory speeches were then addressed and later published in the press such as the newspaper AS-SABAH. The speeches were delivered in the streets through loudspeakers. As a result, the masses became agitated and called for demonstrations and violence and processions. They came out chanting antiregime slogans.

The masses then stoned shop windows and passers-by. To safeguard order, the security men intercepted them, but the demonstrators stoned them, went to the roofs and hurled missiles and tear gas on the security men.

Hannablia said heavy and painful casualties and losses resulted from the events of the day before yesterday. The number of casualties might rise still higher because there are still some wounded people in serious condition in hospitals. They are receiving the best medical attention. The number of people killed including the security men and the attackers is estimated at 40 people. The victims include people whose identities have not yet been ascertained. Two security men were killed, one with a knife and the other with a bullet in his chest. The number of wounded was 325. Among the victims whose identity cannot be established to this moment there might be some security men.

On the other hand, he said, about 400 people were arrested in Tunis and Sousa. Investigations are continuing with them. These included two members of the executive board of UGTT. [words indistinct]

The interior minister said that the attacks began between 0900 and 1000. What calls for attention is that the acts of rebellion began following a telephone call by Habib Ashur, the UGTT secretary general, who contacted the security department at the Ministry of the Interior demanding that the security forces be immediately kept away from the UGTT headquarters or fire would break out in Turnis. He did not specify if this will be confined to the capital or to the whole of Tunisia.

Dhaoui Hannablia said that the aim behind all the assaults and acts of rebellion was to undermine public order and security and to show the state unable to safeguard order and security and freedom for all citizens, and consequently show the strength of the UGTT, in their opinion, and make all believe that it is in a position to overthrow the regime, affect security and subject the government to the UGTT will and impose the decisions of the UGTT national congress.

The minister of the interior affirmed that we still consider the dialog to be continuing on the part of the government and the party.

The minister of the interior said in short, the painful events we lived through on Thursday which resulted in harm to life and private and public property have been the result of a premeditated acts committed by extremists led by the UGTT leadership.

Nouira Announces Probe

TA272121Y Paris AFP in English 2111 GMT 27 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpts] Tunis, Jan 27 (AFP)--The government indicated here today it was ready for a trial of strength with the 500,000-member general union of Tunisisan Workers (GUTW), which it holds responsible for the death of nearly 40 people in bloody rioting following a general strike yesterday.

Announcing a judicial probe into the riots, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira accused GUTW Secretary General Habib Achour of calling on the government to let demonstrators move about freely, failing which there would be a "descent on Tunis and its suburbs."

It was thus that rioting and insurrection broke out in the city centre, Mr Nouira said. There had been pillaging and isolated snipers fired on security forces from terraces, he added.

The government charge against the union leadership was that it made itself the "instrument" of political forces whose objective was thought to be the overthrow of President Habib Bourguiba's regime, observers said.

With Tunis itself like a dead city tonight, a night-long curfew in force, Mr Bourguiba had meanwhile not personally intervened in the conflict.

UGTT Leaders Arrested

LD271706Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Yesterday's clashes in Tunis between the forces of order and demonstrators reportedly resulted in a 100 deaths. This is a report from trade union sources.

Furthermore, about 100 people, including 12 members of the Tunisian Workers General Union [UGTT] bureau, were reportedly arrested this morning. Habib Achour, the secretary general of the UGTT, was allegedly placed under house arrest.

Nouira Discusses Situation

LD271600Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Interview given by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to Paris radio's Ralph Pinto in Tunis on 27 January--live]

[Excerpts] [Question] [Words indistinct] Mr Prime Minister, let us try to sum up the situation. Apparently, calm has returned this morning, but there were deaths yesterday, however, Is it known how many?

[Answer] I can tell you that there will certainly be a press conference this afternoon given by the minister of the interior who will give you and other journalists more information in this respect.

[Question] We have also learned that demonstrations resumed this morning.

[Answer] Sporadically. On a few construction sites on the outskirts of Tunis and that is all. [words indistinct]

[Question] Prime Minister, what are the reasons which led to the explosion yesterday.

[Answer] Listen to what we found at the UGTT headquarters. We found a whole lot of objects which constitute real weapons--daggers, then fairly (?innocent) picks made of iron bars then steel tubes cut into shapes like blades of grass which are known to have been used during the riots. I will omit mentioning a certain quantity of hydrochloric acid and a pile of stones which had been gathered. It seems to me that these instruments are not working tools.

[Question] With the present state of affairs between the UGTT, this single trade union organization, and the Destourian Socialist Party and the government, the separation seems complete. It is unthinkable that tomorrow you might meet Habib Achour, the trade union leader and see him shake his head and start again like that.

[Answer] That is not possible. First there is the law which has come into play and the law will make the decision in this respect.

[Question] Is the economic crisis, the economic climate, the difficult crisis which has hit the world the only cause of the explosion, or is there something else. Is there a foreign hand behind it, were there any agitators, did people coming from a foreign, neighboring country, take part, or demonstrate during these riots?

[Answer] [Word indistinct] every time a country [word indistinct] undergoes an economic crisis (?and tolerates) demonstrations or riots such as we have seen, it is truly the bankruptcy of any regime, whatever it is. In the present case Tunisia is in no worse crisis than any European country. On the contrary, a short while ago Tunisia was picked out as being the country in which inflation is the lowest.

[Question] However, the UGTT in its criticism of you denounces the enrichment of a certain class. Shameful, the UGTT says, and it attacks your plan of keeping salaries too low, of letting prices go free and so forth.

[Answer] Listen, salaries were increased last year by 33 percent, that is, industrial and agricultural minimum wages. This is why we were able to get an agreement from the UGTT, which we call the Social Contract. The Social Contract stipulates three things. The first is the increase in industrial and agricultural minimum wages by that much, which enabled the UGTT to accept a suspension from the point of view of increases in costs for businesses during the fifth plan. However, the suspension is not a price freeze, since we were to meet every April to reexamine legal salaries in the light of price development, production and productivity.

Emergency Meeting Held

LD281720Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, secretary general of the party, today presided over an emergency meeting of members of the Political Bureau of the party and the government to consider the current situation after the painful incidents of last Thursday. These arose from acts of disorder and anarchy which jeopardized public security and the livelihood of citizens and resulted in many victims. The meeting recorded with satisfaction the return of life to normal and decided to east the measures [words indistinct].

Nouira Discusses Disturbances

LD282210Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At 1130 today at the government palace in Al-Qasabah Prime Minister Hedi Nouira made a statement to the representatives of the Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM, the BBC, the French LE MATIN, LE FIGARO and Paris MATCH.

During an interview attended by Mustafa Masmoudi, secretary of state for integration in the prime minister's office, Prime Minister Nouira answered newsmens questions related to the current situation in the country, particularly the recent developments in the political and social situation.

This afternoon Prime Minister Hedi Nouira made a statement at the party house in Al-Qasabah to the special reporter of the French television network TF-1. Mustafa Masmoudi, secretary of state for information in the prime minister's office was present. Hedi Nouira spoke to French viewers about the political and social situation in Tunisia following the events that have occurred in the country in the past few days.

On Friday Hedi Nouira gave some details about the start of the acts of agitation witnessed in Tunis during the general strike called by the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT]. He also explained that two members of the National Assembly who are members of the UGTT are on a hunger strike at the UGTT building. He said they were held pending the establishment of their identity and that the UGTT headquarters were evacuated on Thursday evening by the police.

During a conversation with the special reporters and foreign press correspondents, the prime minister explained the reason for the army's intervention and said that the government did not stop the strike on Thursday--the day the general strike was fixed. But the government took the necessary measures to maintain security. No incidents occurred until 0930. A police cordon was set up to prevent a repetition of the demonstrations of the two previous days. After a short while Habib Ashour, secretary general of the UGTT, contacted the national security director by telephone and requested him to order the police to allow freedom of movement or a march would take place on Tunis and its suburbs. In the meantime, sedition and rebellion had already started inside the city.

Young people began causing a disturbance. They were followed by a wave of older people who began to loot and burn. Up to that time, the police were the only force in charge of maintaining security. But in the Ben Arous suburb--an industrial area in the southern part of the city--the strikers attacked a number of workers who boycotted the strike. The security forces were, because of their small numbers, compelled to take refuge in the municipal buildings which had been burned down. At this point, some elements of the army were called in.

Hedi Nouira described the scenes of looting, the people who opened fire from rooftops and the stealing from homes. He then discussed the state of emergency which has been proclaimed in the country and affirmed that the state of emergency is not a seige and that the civil authority has not delegated any of its powers to the military.

Hedi Nouira stated that an (?urgent) investigation has started concerning the part played by the UGTT leaders in the disturbances. He said that justice will give its view. He expressed the belief that the operation was premeditated. He explained that the UGTT as an organization has not been discredited and that the interests of the working class can be defended by different people.

Weapons Found at UGTT Building

LD2823262 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The security services in Sfax at 1000 today with the assistance of a number of Sfax municipal workers began to seize quantities of stones, sticks, iron bars, tools and barrels discovered by the security services at the Tunisian General Union of Labor [UGTT] regional building in Sfax last night. It was apparent from the way these materials were stored in the various floors of the UGTT building that there had been a careful plan hatched by the saboteurs who infiltrated the ranks of the organization to attack the property of others and the security men.

Many bottles of gasoline and liquor, iron bars and [word indistinct] had been collected on the ground floor while barrels which were filled with water were kept by the plotters on the first floor. The vast quantities of stones, sticks, broken bottles and [word indistinct] were kept on the (?rooftop). Stones were piled in heaps throughout the UGTT regional building and the same can be said about the [word indistinct] and other implements of destruction.

The bottles which had been filled with liquor and gasoline were tied to string and rope so that the saboteurs could catapult them a great distance and set the gasoline on fire. It appears that the architects of the sabotage operation which they had intended to carry out took precautions in regard to the documents. All the documents found in the offices of the UGTT were scattered over the desks and on the floor. This shows that they were sorted out before they left the UGTT building.

Despite this, the public security men found the original copies and some documents which were debated and approved at the national council of the UGTT. It appears that these documents were photographed and copies of them were taken at the UGTT regional building in Sfax.

Trucks belonging to the greater Sfax municipality were used in transporting quantities of stones and other destructive implements which had been discovered at the UGTT regional building in Sfax. It also appears that quantities of weapons found at the UGTT building were moved at dawn today by the security services to the capital.

The bitter truth was revealed to the members of the executive bureaus of the UGTT and its local branches and basic unions in all the branches of trade unionist activity. Some of the leading elements at the executive bureau of the UGTT tried to hide, particularly after the criminal acts which victimized innocent Tunisians. The country lost some of its gains and this was the result of the decisions made by the deviationist leadership in the UGTT whether as part of the decisions of the national council of the UGTT calling for rebellion and mutiny or in the threat made by Habib Achour to set fire in the country. As a consequence of this, members of the executive bureaus of the UGTT and basic unions submitted their resignations from the UGTT.

29 Jan AFP Report

TA291934Y Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 29 Jan 78 TA

[By Boni de Torhout]

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan 29 (AFP --An air of deep uncertainty continued to prevail in Tunis today following the arrest of Habib Achour, general secretary of the Tunisian General Workers' Union, which organised Thursday's general strike.

Reliable sources said that Mr Achour and 10 of the union's 12 executive members have been detained.

The strike led to widespread violence between anti-government demonstrators and police, and resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency.

A warrant for Mr Achour's arrest was issued, and the sources said that he was being questioned by police on his role in Thursday's incidents.

Officials said the violence left 42 dead, but unofficially the death toll was put at more than 130.

The police announced the discovery of large arms stockpiles on union premises, while the Tunisian press has attacked the union leaders' "criminal intent" and their attempt at "rebellion."

Observers hold that Prime Minister Hedi Nouira's decision to have Mr Achour tried in court--probably on a charge of threatening state security--is a calculated risk.

At the moment, serious trouble seems unlikely as the security forces appear to have the situation well in hand and police and army detachments continue to comb the city. The state of emergency has not been lifted and the curfew continues although it has been reduced to 8 hours a day. Observers hold that Mr Nouira will not miss this opportunity to break up the only organised opposition to President Habib Bourguiba.

Official sources give little public attention to the influence which Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi could have had on events, but privately they judge it to be important. They say it appears that the Libyans supplied arms to the demonstrators. Meanwhile, former Interior Minister Ahmed Mestiri, who now heads the "Socialist Democrats" opposition movement severely criticised the government's action over Thursday's incidents. Without giving details, he indicated that the trouble was caused by "provocations."

CABINET DECIDES TO RESUME MILITARY TALKS IN CAIRO

NC291205Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Text] [Announcer] We now join our correspondent Shalom Qital who is in the prime minister's office. [Qital--live] We told you a short while ago, that the cabinet's announcement is being formulated, and now the cabinet secretary Arieh Na'or is coming to us, holding the cabinet announcement.

[Arieh Na'or--live] The cabinet announcement consists of two parts. First that the cabinet has decided, on the basis of the defense minister's recommendation and in accordance with military law, to approve the appointment of Gen Refa'el Eytan to the post of chief of the General Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces. The appointment will become effective 16 April. General Eytan will replace Major General Gur, who will on the same day conclude his duty as the chief of staff. General Eytan will be the ninth chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces.

The other part of the cabinet's announcement is as follows:

Following the cabinet decision of 22 January 1978, the cabinet authorized the dispatch of the Israeli delegation to the joint Israeli-Egyptian Military Committee. The minister of defense, who is the chairman of the Israeli delegation, will make the necessary arrangements in preparation for his journey to Cairo. This is the text of the announcement.

[Question] Will 'Ezer Weizman leave for Cairo tomorrow?

[Answer] He will leave shortly. The date has not been fixed in the text of the statement. After all, it is said that he will make the necessary arrangements. The date of departure is also included within the term necessary arrangements.

[Question] The cabinet decision was conditional beforehand, or at least that is what the prime minister said at the beginning of last week, on (?political) silence from Egypt. And immediately before the cabinet meeting here, we read articles in the magazine OCTOBER. Was this taken into consideration by the cabinet, and did it decide to send the military delegation in spite of this?

[Answer] The article in the magazine OCTOBER was taken into consideration by the cabinet, and the prime minister requested the ministers to differentiate between attacks on the Jewish people and the State of Israel and between personal attacks on him. The prime minister said that personal attacks against him are a professional risk which have to be taken into consideration. He requested the ministers not to take into consideration the personal attacks published in the magazine OCTOBER in determining whether Israel should rejoin the Military Committee in Cairo. Some of the cabinet members who participated in the deliberations referred to the article which was published in the magazine OCTOBER and to the names the prime minister was called, and they condemned them.

[Question] Concerning the first decision, a technical question perhaps, but just to be precise, according to the unofficial count we have made, Rafa'el Eytan is the 11th chief of staff, while you say that he is the 9th chief of staff. We simply counted and discovered that he is the 11th chief of staff. Perhaps it is worthwhile (?correcting) the cabinet statement.

[Answer] No, the number does not appear in the cabinet decision, because I did not read this from a written text. The number is according to my previous knowledge. Since you have corrected me, I will be happy to accept the correction.

[Question] I will correct you then.

[Announcer at the studio intervenes at this point; words indistinct]

[Answer] There will be more good ones in the future.

[Question] Was the second decision adopted unanimously?

[Answer] The cabinet has unanimously decided to approve the renewal of Israel's participation in the Military Committee in Cairo.

[Question] And was the first decision concerning the chief of staff also unanimously adopted?

[Answer] The decision concerning the appointment of the chief of staff was adopted by the cabinet without any objections.

[Question] Mr Na'or, did the cabinet also discuss the resumption of the Political Committee deliberations?

[Answer] No, Israel did not suspend the deliberations of the Political Committee.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] We do not announce such things as who abstained, who voted for, who said what. The cabinet decided to appoint a chief of staff for the Israeli Defense Forces.

[Question] Was any other name mentioned apart from the name of General Eytan as a chief of staff?

[Answer] No. No other name was mentioned. No other name could be mentioned because, according to military law, the cabinet ratifies the appointment of the chief of staff in accordance with the defense minister's recommendation. That is to say, from now on the defense minister is the only qualified authority who can suggest to the cabinet the names of nominees for the post of the chief of staff.

[Qital] Now that the cabinet secretary is switching to English, we return you to the studio.

Further Details

TA291655Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 29 Jan 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The cabinet decided without opposition on the appointment of Major General Eytan as chief of the General Staff. This was reported by the secretary of the cabinet, and from the text it emerges that there were ministers who abstained from the voting. The debate on the appointment of the chief of staff was held in the framework of the cabinet meetings as a ministerial committee for security affairs. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or surveys this debate and the weekly cabinet session.

[La'or--live] The debate over the appointment of the chief of staff was held, as stated, in the framework of the cabinet meeting as a ministerial committee for security affairs and so its details are secret according to the law. But, in accordance with the law on the establishment of the army, the candidate was proposed by the minister of defense, and the cabinet secretary reported that, accordingly, no other candidates were proposed. Before the decision on the appointment of the 11th IDF chief of staff, the cabinet held a political debate, also in the framework of a ministerial committee for security affairs.

The cabinet today authorized sending the military delegation to Cairo. The decision was passed, on the motion of the prime minister, and unanimously. The delegation's composition [mo'ezah] will be determined according to the arrangements, as the prime minister put it, to be made by the minister of defense.

At the moment contacts are being held with the Egyptian authorities concerning the date for the renewal of the committee discussions. The contacts are being held both through the U.S. embassies and the Israeli delegation now in Cairo. A source in the capital reported that the delegation headed by the minister of defense will leave as early as tomorrow, but another evaluation is that the defense minister will leave for Cairo on Friday. The cabinet today gave the delegation new directives, but the cabinet secretary refused to specify their contents. It is worth recalling that the prime minister said in public this week that demilitarization of Sinai will be the main issue in the Cairo discussions.

The cabinet was also told today about the expected visit by President as-Sadat to the United States but the possibility that the prime minister, Menahem Begin, would advance his private trip to the United States was not mentioned. These are the initial details of the political debate held by the cabinet today.

It is also worth mentioning that at a private dinner this evening and in his office tomorrow Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will meet with Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Alfred Atherton. Atherton will report on his talks with King Husayn yesterday and the foreign minister and the assistant U.S. secretary of state will also discuss Atherton's expected visit to Cairo tomorrow or the day after.

Morning Press Comment

NC290846Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jan 78 NC

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The cabinet meeting and As-Sadat's imminent visit to Washington are the central subjects of editorials. HA'AREZ writes that there is no interest in a policy based on considerations of prestige. It adds that Israel should be interested in the progress and not in the halting of the political process. However, the government should ask itself in which direction it wants to direct this process, as far as is within its power. The voters are entitled to know what they can expect and what is, in the government's opinion, out of reach. Sometimes it seems that the government, which is not defining a scale of preferences, is about to lose on both fronts: first in the south and later in the east.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that it is possible that the parties will learn a lesson from the previous crisis and will conduct the negotiations with less publicity, even though this does not guarantee their success. The key question concerning the fate of the talks is whether the Israeli Government, in its present form, will be willing to explore the historic opportunity with a willingness for concessions and compromises.

DAVAR believes that President as-Sadat's trip to Washington and, later on, to European capitals is the beginning of a diplomatic and propaganda assault. It will continue, step by step, with the deliberations of the Military Committee and with the contacts aiming at bridging the political gap between Egypt and Israel. All of these make it imperative for a flexible and appropriate reply by Israeli diplomacy and by, first and foremost, our friends in the United States. It seems that, in the struggle for peace, we are destined to encounter many experiences of this sort.

DAYAN SPEAKS ABOUT PEACE, PROGRESS OF TALKS

TA281818Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Jan 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that over the last few days good progress had been made in the political talks between Israel and Egypt with regard to the joint statement of principles as a basis for any progress in the political negotiations. On the other hand, it is impossible to say with certainty how much time will be required until agreement is reached on all clauses of the statement of principles. The foreign minister stated this to our correspondent Sara Frankel after he had appeared at the platform for political and social clarifications rally today in Kefar Vitkin. [begin recording]

[Frankel] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan explained right at the start of his remarks that the political negotiations between Israel and Egypt had not stopped and are being conducted all the time with the mediation of the Americans.

[Dayan] The negotiations of the Political Committee are indeed not being conducted in Jerusalem, and they are alive and being carried on, indirectly. I can say here that, even when the committee met in Jerusalem, even then, before the Arabs came and after they came, the negotiations were not direct, face to face. They sat down with us. We did not go back to the situation existing in the past when they said we will not sit together with Israel. They sat and came to the dinner and so on. But the practical negotiations--not in the Military Committee--in the Political Committee were done with mediation, via the Americans, including the upcoming trip by Egyptian President as-Sadat to Washington--that is part of the negotiations.

[Frankel] Further on, Moshe Dayan stressed the necessity that everyone personally and each side in the negotiations should put aside the historical axioms they had adhered to in the past, including he himself. Speaking about the people's selective memory, he recalled the decision by the national unity cabinet on the complete withdrawal from the whole of Sinai and on changing this decision only when it emerged that 'Abd an-Nasir rejected it. There are those who only remember the change, but they do not remember the original, Moshe Dayan said. The foreign minister added that this is the first time Egypt has conducted negotiations with us without being under pressure with the sword of war placed on its neck after a war. The question is what are the urgencies or the pressures today pushing the Egyptians into holding negotiations, and are these pressures, which caused As-Sadat to come to Jerusalem, still at work? The foreign minister put a question mark at the end of this question, since he had no answer. And from here, after speaking in favor of the cabinet's peace program, the comprehensive program, and also in favor of its tactical moves, Dayan spoke about the settlements, about the settlements in the Yamit strip. It is the state which will decide what are the good conditions under which its citizens can live in security and not the citizens themselves, the foreign minister said, since otherwise it would also be necessary to ask the views of 400,000 Arabs of Gaza.

[Dayan] And when I hear from foreigners or from Jews in the United States and also in Israel: let us assume that Egypt is prepared to make a separate peace with you, and it is necessary to move the 13 settlements, then must Israel really say, we will not make peace and for what is called 'it will have to eat the sword forever' [as heard] because we are not prepared to move 13 settlements? I am saying what I have been hearing. Well, I propose to ourselves, to all of us and to all of you, that when we arrive, if we arrive, at that moment of reality, we also listen to what the other side has to say, and we will say: to here, yes, and from here on, no, and if you, the Egyptians, are not prepared for the settlement we are proposing, even if with Egyptian sovereignty, but that the settlements will remain where they are and that Israelis will remain in Sharm ash-Shaykh and so on, all the proposals we have made, then there is no peace; okay, there is no peace. But if you do not agree with this, so there will be no peace, but not for us to devour ourselves up and for our sons to devour ourselves [as heard] nations who arrive at peace making, take more drastic steps....[sentence incomplete]

[Frankel] Moshe Dayan believes that Egypt is prepared for peace with Israel but, for the moment, not for a separate peace. But if Egypt is prepared for a separate peace, even now, Moshe Dayan thinks, that if negotiations break down, they will not break down on the question of the settlements in the Yamit strip or on the question of Sharm ash-Shaykh. If the negotiations break down, they will break down on the problem of Judaea and Samaria.

Comments on Declaration of Principles

TA301116Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has said that Israel expected within a short time Egypt's reply to the version of the declaration of principles it proposed. Mr Dayan was speaking with correspondents after he conferred with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton. This afternoon Atherton will submit to Egypt Israel's version of the declaration, will examine Egypt's proposals on this issue and will convey them to Israel. In reply to a question, Mr Dayan said it is still too soon to say whether Jordan will join the political negotiations.

TIMING OF BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON UNCERTAIN

NC280619Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat will go to Washington on Friday on a 4-day visit to conduct talks with President Carter. This was stated by sources in the U.S. and Egyptian capitals. An official announcement on the visit is expected today.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin is also expected to go to Washington, but when the visit will take place is not clear. The White House spokesman has said that the prime minister is planning a private visit next month. A few days ago, it was reported from Israel that Mr Begin will go to the United States at the end of April in order to participate in the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence.

Officials in Washington and Cairo have denied rumors that a joint meeting of President Carter, President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin is expected to take place.

TAMIR REPORTS TO BEGIN, WEIZMAN ON CAIRO TALKS

TA271244Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Jan 78 TA

[Text] This afternoon Maj Gen Avraham Tamir reported to the prime minister and to the defense minister on his talks in Cairo after the Military Committee deliberations were halted. The meeting was held in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. Major General Tamir will report to the cabinet on the day after tomorrow. He will return to Cairo next week together with the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee if the government decides to resume the deliberations.

Progress in Cairo Talks

JN290636Y Jerusalem in Arabic to Arab World 0530 GMT 29 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Major General Tamir met Begin the day before yesterday and submitted a report on his talks in Cairo. Our correspondent reports that, according to this report, progress has been made regarding the military questions between Israel and Egypt. Our correspondent adds that this week positive developments have taken place toward an agreement to issue a joint declaration of principles for Egypt and Israel. Israeli sources have stated that the two sides are on the verge of issuing a declaration of principles on all the terms, including the Palestinian subject, which was a point of difference between them.

The same sources point out that when Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat broke off the discussions of the joint Political Committee 10 days ago, the two sides were on the threshold of issuing a similar declaration of principles.

MINISTER TAMIR COMMENTS ON SECOND STAGE OF TALKS

TA271515Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Minister Tamir thinks that the second and practical stage of the peace talks with Egypt will open shortly. The argument over Sinai is now concentrated on two points: the Rafah approaches--we must insist on this, because there must be a buffer zone between Egypt and the Gaza Strip; and the other is the demilitarization of Sinai, on which President as-Sadat agreed during his visit to Jerusalem, and this is a firm foundation for peace. Minister Tamir was speaking at the naval and economic club in Haifa.

KNESSET COMMITTEE HEAD INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TALKS

NC281629Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Israel suspended the military talks in Cairo because of what Prime Minister Menahem Begin called President as-Sadat's ultimata and the anti-Semitic tone in the Egyptian press. Now it is clear that it has ceased, the Israeli cabinet is expected to send Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman back to Cairo when it meets tomorrow. In this interview with Andrew Meisels, the Likud's Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, discusses the negotiations and the issue of American arms supplies to the Middle East. [begin recording]

[Question] Moshe Arens, since everyone now seems to assume the Military Committee will resume its talks in Egypt next week, what exactly are they going to talk about?

[Answer] Well, I don't think anybody really knows. To the best of my knowledge there is not an agreed-upon agenda as yet for the meeting. I assume that there will be a continuation of the kind of talks which were held in the previous sessions of the committee. And now they're discussing the demilitarization in the Sinai--extensive demilitarization, sending out of forces in the region and which forces would be sent out, the early warning stations that would be established in part of Sinai. I think these are the things they'll be talking about, but I think that the main impact of the meetings will be that the channels of the communications are kept open and that hopefully we'll be moving toward a renewed meeting of either the Political Committee or some other forms that will be dealing with the crux of the matter, namely, the political problems.

[Question] But, in effect, is the Military Committee then going to work out the details of what could become accepted agreements between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Well, I don't think it really can until the political subjects are discussed and agreed upon and unless the Military Committee ends up being in effect the Political Committee, which I don't anticipate. I don't think that it can work out any kind of agreement, neither can there be a separate agreement between us and Egypt.

[Question] Mr Arens, how important are the settlements in the northern Sinai to Israel's security?

[Answer] Well, I think it would be important to talk about the particular area in question--the area round Rafah--and I would say it's very important for Israel's security for two reasons. One, we have one of our airbases there. That's an important airbase. There really are no alternate sites for it. It's important in terms of location and in terms of the ranges to some of the other Arab airbases, in terms of the early warning time that we can obtain if the airbases are approached from both directions. If the airbases are evacuated I think it would be a very difficult situation for the Israeli air force. And secondly, that area around Rafah is important because it will separate the Gaza Strip from the rest of Sinai and therefore the local population in the Gaza Strip from connections potentially with Arab territories and organizations like the PLO, which in the past on more than one occasion--in the period preceding the Sinai campaign in 1956 and again in the period preceding the 6-day war in 1967--actively worked in arming the local population in the Gaza Strip [words indistinct] of arms to participate in various activities against the Jewish settlements in Israel.

DAVAR REPORTS ON PERES-ATHERTON MEETING

TA2917l6Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton and explained to him that the risk assumed by Egypt is the personal risk of President as-Sadat, whereas the Israeli risk is one affecting the entire nation in the event an Israeli witndrawal does not bring about peace. As-Sadat, Peres said, is promising us peace and security, but even if his promise is acceptable, he can make no commitments in the name of Syria and Jordan. In his talk with Atherton, Peres enlarged on the importance of the Israeli airfields in Sinai and on the importance of the Rafah approaches.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY BBC

LD280525Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 1930 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin in London on the morning of 27 January by Richard Kershaw and carried on the "Newsday" program--recorded]

[Text] [Question] The hullaballoo over the historic exchange of visits between President as-Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Begin of Israel produced the widespread belief that peace might at last be coming to the embattled Middle East. Then optimism was shattered by increasingly acrimonious exchanges that led by last week to an effective suspension of the negotiations. Now (?private) diplomacy, in which the United States has been playing a central part, seems to be about the process of real bargaining to be started. There is hope that a declaration of principle has already been approved by both sides. In London today to brief the foreign secretary, Dr Owen, on Israel's current position has been the country's deputy premier, Professor Yadin, once the youngest military chief even Israel has ever had, then a famous archeological scholar and since last year's elections leader of the country's third largest party, which is now in the government coalition. I asked him this morning if the peace initiative had got off the ground again.

[Answer] Well, first of all, I think I should answer in the positive to the main part of your question, although as I said last week--or when was it when the talks were stopped abruptly--this came really as a shock and a surprise to everybody and that very day I had a very friendly and interesting and important talk with Foreign Minister Kamil and Minister Ghali, and of course they were taken by surprise, too, and we do not know exactly what were the reasons. So barring any sort of say surprise, I believe that next week perhaps the cabinet will take a positive view and the defense ministers' talks will resume.

[Question] So you are still hopeful that what began as a highly publicized exercise is going to be fruitful?

[Answer] Yes, well in a way I would say that the disappointment in the public sometimes comes from the fact that the whole negotiations with As-Sadat's visit really was like a race starting at the finish line. Now we have to go to the start line and do it properly. Or as a friend of mine told me, it reminded him of a western shown from the back, from the happy end, and we have to rewind it now. Well, yes, I think it--the threads--will be picked up again now, the negotiations will proceed, and then as long as the negotiations are going on, then I am always hopeful.

[Question] There is one critical thing though, sir, that the discussions themselves are purely with the Egyptians, and the Egyptians sit in a much wider Arab world. Are you not, from the Israeli point of view, really going along to try and get a separate peace with Egypt at the moment, which has always been one of the aims of Israeli policy, and does this not mean that it will in the end fail?

[Answer] I do not think this was the object of the exercise so to say, either from the Egyptian point of view or the Israeli point of view. But there is, I think, a misunderstanding here. Any comprehensive peace agreement--everybody should understand--must have in it an element, of course, an agreement between Israel and Egypt, and later on perhaps an agreement between Israel and Syria. So the very fact that parallel to all these efforts, these bilateral talks between Israel and Egypt should not be misunderstood. It does not mean a separate agreement, but an agreement between Israel and Egypt is vital as part and parcel of a comprehensive peace.

[Question] Although it would knock out the main army that faces you if you had a separate contract--as the French would say--with Egypt?

[Answer] Well, I wish it were true. Unfortunately as far as Israel is concerned we have several main enemies on our frontiers. This is the problem. But it is true that if an agreement with Egypt will come it will ease the situation. But one should remember that as far as Israel--a much more even greater danger lies in the east and north. There we have the Syrians and behind them the Iraqis and also the Jordanians, and the latitude for maneuvers, for surprise attacks there, is much narrower there. It is right in the heart of Israel, but one after another must be agreed upon between Israel in order to have a real comprehensive peace. [sentence as heard]

[Question] Can I turn to the elements of any settlement. Firstly, the negotiations on the ground with Egypt, which affect Sinai. The understanding we have, although we are not in the negotiations, is that there will be a time scale before there was a more or less total withdrawal by your government. In your view is it necessary....

[Answer] Withdrawal of the government?

[Question] No, withdrawal of your forces from Sinai? In your view does that time scale need to be as long--3 to 5 years people have been talking about--or should you not take the bull by the horns and if you make the agreement go ahead straight away.

[Answer] I think that is important really to realize first is that this government, in the counterproposal which I think was an adequate one and a worthy one to the gesture of As-Sadat, as President as-Sadat himself (?said), that we said from the beginning that eventually, gradually--and this matter must be discussed--we shall pull back to the international border, actually by that saying that the sovereignty of Egypt is, so to say, recognized. Now this is a very vital point because I am not so sure whether the public here is realizing that all previous governments of Israel actually had a decistion that Israel should control, so to say, forever one way or another a strip from the Mediterranean to Sharm ash-Shaykh as part of Israel control.

[Question] That is now an advance, I grant you.

[Answer] Well, that is a very, very important thing, so now...

[Question, interrupting] If you are saying you still want stay there for 3 to 5 years....

[Answer] Well that is of course, but when we say, for example, from a bargaining point of view from 3 to 5 years, obviously 3 years is something that we would agree upon.

But this is another issue that we have to negotiate. One should remember that after 30 years of animosity and suspicions and so on and so forth, you cannot do it abruptly. There is always still a suspicion, mistrust on both sides, with all the good will. And by the way we were there, we built fortifications and many other installations there. If we withdraw, or rather change the lines of the army, we have to prepare another line or another arrangement. I think so of the Egyptians. [sentence as heard] So I do not think the issue between us at the moment, or rather the problem which hinders an agreement, is really the timetable. That can be negotiated.

[Question] In Sinai that means in that sector you would be going back on your offers to go back to the original 1967 borders.

[Answer] Well, eventually after a certain gradual time lapse to be agreed upon, we shall go back to the international border, but that agreement is based on one understanding--that the Sinai as such will be demilitarized. Otherwise, there will be a danger. The Sinai should be a sort of buffer. I would say, if peace is being achieved, I would say the peninsula of peace, that should be the character of that.

[Question] But Sharm-ash-Shaykh would go back to the Egyptians?

[Answer] Well this is one of the problems--formally yes, but arrangements will have to be made to maintain the freedom of navigation, which is the whole problem there. And what are the actual arrangements? These are problems for negotiations. I think that you are right in assuming that, but demilitarization is a very essential factor.

[Question] Can we turn to the much more difficult to answer question about the West Bank, as we call it? At the moment you have a large number of permanent-seeming settlements there. What, as you understand....

[Answer, interrupting] [Words indistinct] some people would like to.

[Question] What, in your understanding, is the form of the offer which Israel is now making within these talks?

[Answer] Well that is a very good crux of the matter. As you know, no basis for negotiations could be if every side will say we will have all that we want or if one side will have all that it wants. And I think that the ingenious, or in fact in a positive way of the whole proposal of autonomy that the government, particular government with Premier Begin--which their political party was always that the West Bank should always be under the sovereignty of Israel--is the point that in this autonomy suggested, the key thing is that the sovereignty problem should be left open. [sentence as heard] Now, this is the key to the whole thing, and I think that if you start the negotiations by saying that the sovereignty problem, which is the issue as far as Israel and others [are concerned], is left open, there is the basis for negotiations. And it is also important to know when this proposal was put first by Mr Begin to President Carter and then to Prime Minister Callaghan, both of them in fact said that it was a fair basis for negotiations, and this should be understood as such.

[Question] Now when, as 2 weeks ago, just at the start of this whole process of Begin-As-Sadat talks, I spoke to Mr Begin in Jerusalem, I did put that question to him. I said: What is the status of this territory? Is it disputed, or under negotiation, or is it liberated Israeli territory? He firmly declared it was liberated Israeli territory. Do you differ with him on that?

[Answer] Well, historically we all agree it is liberated, because historically it is Israel. But we are talking now in political terms, and if you read in the actual proposal of the autonomy, which of course was drafted by Mr Begin, there it says very clearly that although we, Israel, so to say, think we have the right for the Western Bank sovereignty, we know that there are other claims. Therefore, we leave that issue of sovereignty open because this is the only basis for negotiations. And I think that is the important thing.

[Question] Now there are three points that rise to my mind: First, what about the Israeli settlements that have been made and which this government seems to imply are permanent and will always be there? Is that your understanding?

[Answer] Well, I would say this: That irrespective of the final solution, I do not really think that the settlements as such are going to be the problem. After all, there are many, many Arab villages also in Israel, and whatever will be the final shape of this autonomy, or whatever will be decided in the future, I do not think this is the issue. I think the important thing is that in this autonomy proposal, 5 of the 26 articles there mention Jordan, and the important thing is that it says in the autonomy proposal that the citizens of the Western Bank can choose between Jordanian citizenship or Israeli. They will have the right to elect and be elected to the Jordanian parliament. And it says in one of the articles--that is the key--the problems emanating from such a situation should be negotiated between Jordan and Israel. In other words, Jordan is a partner to this arrangement.

[Question] So Jordan is a partner, but what about...

[Answer, interrupting] Any Palestinians, Arab living there.

[Question] What about what has become part international parlance--and President Carter himself spoke of it--the idea of a Palestinian entity or Palestinian homeland?

[Answer] Well, the answer to that is the Israeli offer that it should be an autonomy with quite a lot of rights.

[Question] An autonomy within the Jordan citizenship context, not an autonomy to call it Palestine.

[Answer] Well, these are of course very important problems. We are not trying to find a solution which is agreed to one side or another. Here there is a solution which is fair for negotiations. Although we claim sovereignty, we say nevertheless sovereignty problems should be left open, their relations, let us discuss it and see how it works. I mean you cannot solve these vexing problems abruptly. It is either you say all right we have it our way and the other side is not a party to the negotiations. And the other side says--and some of them do--that we cannot start negotiations unless we have our way, then there is no basis for negotiations. The door is open, and that is the important thing.

[Question] But if one looks at the people who live on West Bank, the Palestinians or the Arabs, they have elected their mayors and almost all the mayors take the line that this is unsatisfactory and that the true representative of their people is the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

[Answer] I know that some of them what they say, [as heard] but one thing should be clear and on this there is consensus in Israel, for our party, the Likud, or the Labor, we are not going to negotiate with PLO as such. Because the PLO is an organization which actually says in their charter that their main aim is to annihilate Israel--but the Palestinian Arabs who are willing to be a party to negotiations, by all means. It is true that the mayors, some of them, were, so to say pro-PLO, but there are strong elements there which are oriented more toward Jordan, but that is a question which will have to be solved during the day. But we cannot talk with the PLO.

[Question] Last point about West Bank. We have spoken of demilitarization of Sinai and its return to Egypt. What do you forsee as the defense arrangements that could be made in West Bank? You don't see demilitarization, do you? You see the retention of Israeli forces there.

[Answer] Definitely, because you see this area is right at the heart of Israel. It is a few miles from Tel Aviv, the biggest city. It is a few hundred meters from Jerusalem, the capital. You cannot rely on that. I think it is the very existence of Israel, and Israeli troops in one way or another must be the east side. [as heard]

[Question] But then no autonomy, because if you have troops and security forces sitting on your tail you are not having real autonomy.

[Answer] Well, we are talking about administrative autonomy and we say that in 5 years the whole situation must be reviewed. One thing I think I would like to add. If people are seeking an instant agreement, they are wrong. You cannot find an instant agreement. I think more time, more patience is needed, and where there is a will as you say there is a way.

[Question] Another sticking point, sir--Jerusalem. The question here, and it is a deeply emotional one, of sovereignty over what is called the old city, what we all understand as the old city. What is your understanding of your country's position on that?

[Answer] Again I must say that this is not a matter of dogs and horse, and I think this must be clear. This is the capital of Jerusalem, and it cannot be divided. Yet at the same time we recognize that there are entries of holy places to the Moslems, holy places to the Christians, and I am sure Israel in a peace agreement will be very very willing to come to arrangements which will give control of these places to the people who are responsible for it.

[Question] Finally, can I ask you how far with this, to our eyes, rather odd coalition of your party, the Movement for Change, and the rather rightwing Likud, how unified are you on these issues?

[Answer] As I said, we think, all of us now, that this peace proposal as it is, is a fair basis for negotiations, and as I said it leaves the chance to every party to say that it does not close the option for its desires; it is also from the parties' point of view. I think that as long as the peace negotiations will go on on these bases, I think there is a firm basis for that coalition.

[Question] And is it fair to say that it is the degree to which America is putting its muscle into these negotiations that is going to bring them success, and how far do you fear that muscle, because America has a very considerable degree of possible pressure points upon you?

[Answer] Well, first of all, I must say that the most important thing of the situation at the moment is for the first time that we have direct negotiations between us and the Egyptians, and wherever these negotiations take place I think any other party should keep out as much as possible. Whenever both sides, as it happens now, ask the good offices, let us say, of the United States, it is better. Pressure--that is a word of course which is being used, but there are certain essentials to Israel which affect its very survival and no pressure can change Israel's view on that.

PERES INTERVIEWED ON GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

TA271727Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 27 Jan 78 p 6 TA

[Interview with Labor Party head Shim'on Peres by Sha'ul Meiselish in Peres' office in the Knesset building--date not given]

[Excerpt] MK Shim'on Peres is still optimistic, at least outwardly. It seems that he and his friends are still "waiting in the corner," waiting to see how things develop in the coming political moves and think in the meantime that they are "nonetheless the most rooted force in Israel's politics, and their chances for resuming the leadership of the state are greater than could be expected only a short while ago."

Peres, who praised "a little" the government's position in its decision not to resume the military negotiations, is now finishing a new book. This book is sort of a continuation to "The Sling of David," his first book. Between one proofreading of the new book and another, we talked with him in his Knesset building office about the past, present and future.

[Question] Do you feel like the leader of a defeated party, a frustrated party which has been abandoned by its members?

[Answer] I do not think so. We remained loyal to our principles and men and are daily organizing in the right direction. The withdrawals were withdrawals of people who had planned to do so for a long time. In contrast, I think that the government has not tasted the real hardships of government up to now.

[Question] How is this evidenced?

[Answer] Now the government feels the contrast of territory versus peace, dilemmas of settlement versus political tendencies, the balance between peace and withdrawal. We had struggles over these questions in our government and thoroughly tasted [hardships]. This is why we looked for ways in which we could enable Israel to have the right to defensible borders on the one hand, and not to return to the 1967 lines on the other.

The Likud has undergone a strange revolution: It opposed the partition plan in 1947, the Rhodes plan in 1949, the withdrawal from Sinai in 1957, Resolution 242, the first interim agreement in 1974 and the second interim agreement in 1975. When it assumed power, however, it gave up everything. It was fickleness giving up sovereignty in Sinai before real negotiations. Investments in the Sinai airfields amounted to hundreds of millions of Israeli pounds, and the concession of Sinai airspace is very grave.

[Question] What would you propose to As-Sadat if you were in Begin's place?

[Answer] First, I would not have committed myself to a withdrawal to the international border, since the moment you agree to such a withdrawal in advance and As-Sadat comes and declares that he wants full peace--the end comes to your claims and arguments. We would have found a mean path of withdrawing to secure borders.

[Question] What about Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] We would have thought not only of a plan but also of a partner. When a major component such as plan or partner is missing, we find ourselves in a situation of no solution and no progress toward a solution, and this is not a healthy situation.

We would have suggested a plan based on Jordanian involvement and that consisted of a functional and territorial compromise that would have prevented total withdrawal and preserved the Jewish character of the State of Israel.

A basic agreement between Israel and Egypt could have spared a compromise over the West Bank. What happened is that Sinai will be taken and the problem of Judaea and Samaria will remain unsolved. I would have explained to Husayn the minimum from which Israel will not withdraw (the 1967 borders and the coastal strip) and I would have stressed the fact that we and the Jordanians have common interests which are preventing the establishment of a Palestinian-PLO state. My concrete proposal would have talked about joint defense deployment along the Jordan together with an emphasis on the temporariness of such a plan.

[Question] What is bad about the Begin plan regarding Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] The autonomy plan of Begin is sown with obstacles and problems. His starting point was the maximum that could be offered. How can he now withstand additional demands?

If the plan for Judaea and Samaria is accepted, it will be the nucleus for the establishment of a Palestinian state. If it is not accepted, all pressures will focus on Israel. Will Begin be able to issue a Jordanian passport to the West Bank residents? Clearly not. What will he do when some of the Gaza Strip residents want an Israeli passport, for example? This will clearly violate the demographic balance and will pave the way for Arab demands to return lands and property. Moreover, our democratic policy will stand helpless against the tendency of land procurement by Arabs. How shall we prevent this? In fact, they will not even have to purchase the land. It will be sufficient only for them to build a house.

In contrast, Israelis will not be able to procure lands in Judaea and Samaria since the lands of the government and of the Waqf will be in the hands of autonomy, and anyone who dared sell them to Israeli hands would be killed. In addition to the lands, another important issue will be in the hands of autonomy: emigration. We will not have the power to prevent an Arab administration from adopting an Arab "law of return." There is no doubt either that asymmetry is created between us and the Arabs regarding the nature of sovereignty. This assymmetry will be exactly like "Solomon's judgement."

[Question] You have listed a long series of weaknesses in Begin's plan. Then why don't you fight it?

[Answer] We intend to conduct the opposition in a considered manner and not be dragged into idle arguments. Our purpose is to criticize negative phenomena and welcome steps taken in a positive direction. We will not intentionally foil the initiative. We avoided disturbing the course toward peace knowing that the alternative is not a peace plan but failure of the negotiations.

Between a failure of the negotiations and a plan in which the danger of failure is inherent, we preferred certainty over probability.

[Question] Do you, as the opposition leader, feel that you are deprived from the viewpoint of the amount of information [you receive]?

[Answer] It is known that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee entered the picture after the whole world knew about Begin's plan, and the discussion was retroactive. Despite this and my criticism, I am praying for the success of the government. Peace is more important than a partisan position. The failure of the negotiations means the failure of Israel and a return to a far worse situation. This is the reason why the previous government checked every detail before it publicized anything.

[Question] Will you demand elections on the eve of a political decision?

[Answer] We will decide when the time comes. However, we are happy that we were not tempted into giving up credibility and joining the government. The Democratic Movement forChange [DMC], for example, became tempted and joined the government while bidding farewell to its platform and voters. Preference for the principles of government instead of government by principle exposed them as an unreliable party. No, no, there is no connection between the DMC's joining the government and As-Sadat's arrival, do not exaggerate... generally, it is healthy for politicians to sit in opposition. I sat in the opposition Rafi for 5 years and I do not for a minute regret this. It is impossible to inspire reliability without being ready for certain situations such as sitting in the opposition.

NABULUS RESIDENTS RIOT TO PROTEST SETTLEMENTS

TA271817Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Jan 78 TA

[Text] There were breaches of the peace in Nabulus today in protest over the settlements. The rioters burned tires and threw stones at Israeli cars. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the driver of one of the cars got out of his vehicle and fired at the rioters. One of the youths was wounded and hospitalized in (Rafidiyyeh). An investigation has been opened. Yesterday there was incitement to demonstrate in Nabulus, and a proclamation against the settlements was circulated in the town.

MA'ARIV Report

TA271314Y Tel AVIV MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 78 p 12 TA

[Text] Extreme elements, PLO supporters, have recently conducted an incitement campaign in Nabulus for holding demonstrations and a strike to protest the settlements in the region and the continuation of the peace contacts between Egypt and Israel. The Israeli Defense Forces are ready for possible disturbances in the town.

Leaflets were distributed yesterday in Nabulus and slogans signed by the PLO were written calling on the residents to strike and demonstrate against the settlements in the region and against the continuation of the contacts between Egypt and Israel.

The reports regarding the preparation of land for additional settlements in the region gave rise to ferment among the residents. At the beginning of the week notables from the region of Nabulus and Tulkarm convened and sent protest petitions to the governor of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen David Hagoel. Attempts to demonstrate were also made 2 days ago.

MEDIA VIEWS 'ARAFAT LETTER TO SHAH, OTHER ISSUES

LD291828Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Reviewing Teheran's three evening papers--ETTELA'AT, KAYHAN and PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ--tonight, the most prominent feature concerns the report concerning Yasir 'Arafat's message to the shah about Iran's relations with the PLO. The report, on the front page of all three evening papers, says that 'Arafat's message was delivered to the Iranian Embassy in Cairo by Sa'id Kamal, deputy chief of PLO Political Department.

ETTELA'AT says: Iran has always supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to decide their own future. Quoting political observers, the newspaper says: 'Arafat's message to the shah is of particular importance. In this message, 'Arafat most probably has asked the shah of Iran to continue insisting on Iran's previous viewpoints regarding the Palestinian issue. Quoting foreign diplomatic circles residing in Teheran, ETTELA'AT also says: Despite the fact that the PLO and 'Arafat personally have been hostile to As-Sadat's peace initiative, they are, nevertheless, fully aware of Iran's influential role in this regard. For this reason, with a personal message to the shah Yasir 'Arafat is striving to win Iran's favorable attitude.

Teheran's evening papers also report a coming visit to Teheran by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak to deliver a message from As-Sadat to the shah. KAYHAN says: Husni Mubarak, who will arrive in Teheran from Muscat, after delivering President as-Sadat's message to the shah will also visit several Middle East Arab countries.

Another Teheran evening paper, PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ, on its front page tonight quotes the Iranian foreign minister as saying that contrary to what certain people think, Iran's position in the Horn of Africa is a neutral one. PEYGHAM-E EMRUZ adds that, at the Iranian foreign minister's reception in honor of foreign correspondents, it was confirmed that Iran had cut off oil supplies to Rhodesia.

EGYPT'S VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR SHAH

NC300941Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jan 78 NC

[Text] His Majesty the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, received Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at 0930 this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

The vice president will convey a message from President as-Sadat to the shah of Iran. The message deals with developments in the situation and the efforts Egypt is exerting to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. Husni Mubarak arrived in Iran at 0900 this morning for a 3-hour visit.

The vice president had earlier given a press conference in Muscat during which he noted that Sultan Qabus has from the beginning expressed Oman's complete and comprehensive support for President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative.

Concerning plans for future moves, the vice president said: Egypt withdrew its delegation from the Political Committee meetings because of Israel's tampering and its attempts to gain time. He added that President Anwar as-Sadat in his speech to the Knesset had defined the principles related to achieving a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East problem. These principles are withdrawal from the occupied territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He went on to say that these principles represent the goals which we are striving to achieve.

His excellency said that Egypt is currently holding contacts with the United States, that U.S. President Carter has invited President as-Sadat to the United States for consultations and that the president will make this visit during his tour, which starts on Thursday.

On the possibility of convening the Political Committee, Husni Mubarak said: As long as there is no political decision, what will the Military [as heard] Committee discuss?

He said the political decision will emanate from the Political Committee, adding that President as-Sadat had agreed to the Military Committee meetings in response to the American President's wish. However, Israel is the one that has postponed the convocation of the committee. He affirmed that Egypt has not cut the rope and that its position still favors the achievement of an all-out, comprehensive solution.

On Egypt's attitude toward the Middle East crisis, Husni Mubarak said: Since the beginning of the crisis, 30 years ago, Egypt has made sacrifices, has lost men and has shed its own blood. During all that period, Egypt had a principled stand which it did not change. His excellency asked: Would it be logical that Egypt is striving for a separate solution, as the rejectionist countries keep saying? What the rejectionist countries assert is nonsense; the rejectionist countries are rejecting themselves.

KHALATBARI COMMENTS ON SOMALI SITUATION, OTHER ISSUES

LD291221Y Teheran PARS in English 0920 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr's forthcoming visit to India will further strengthen the friendly relations between Iran and India and the leaders of the two countries will discuss matters of mutual interest relating to bilateral cooperation, the Iranian foreign minister, Abas Ali Khalatbari said at a press conference held at the Foreign Ministry today.

Mr Khalatbari added that the invitation for the visit had been extended to the shahanshah during the recent visit to Iran of the Indian Prime Minister, Morarji Desai.

Asked about Iran's interest in expanding economic cooperation with the Indian Ocean states, referred to as the "Asian common market." Mr Khalatbari stressed that Iran was very interested in such cooperation and further talks would be held among the regional states in the near future. On the present crisis in the Horn of Africa, Mr Khalatbari indicated that Iran has diplomatic relations with both Somalia and Ethiopia and had urged the two parties to solve their problems through peaceful solutions. So far Iran had not put any military assistance at Somalia's disposal, but if Somalia's national borders were invaded and if Somalia asked Iran for help, Iran would not remain indifferent. Iran's assistance to Somalia has so far consisted of humanitarian assistance sent through the Red Lion and Sun Society, Mr Khalatbari said.

On Iran's relations with the Arab states, Mr Khalatbari said that Iran had solved her problems with some Arab countries including Iraq through friendly solutions and had cordial relations with all the other Arab states except for Libya and the regime of Aden.

Referring to the Middle East crisis, the foreign minister said that Iran had always believed that the crisis should be solved through peaceful measures and by observing the legitimate rights of all the parties involved.

SHAH, EMPRESS TO VISIT INDIA ON 2 FEBRUARY

LD2411307 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The shah and the empress are to visit India officially at the invitation of the president of India and his wife from Thursday 2 February to Sunday 5 February. The following announcement was issued by the Court Ministry today:

In view of the bonds of friendship and cordiality between Iran and India, at the invitation of the President of India and Mrs Sanjeeva Reddy, the shah and the empress will pay an official visit to that country from 2 to 5 February 1978.

ENVOY TO SOMALIA URGES INDIAN PEACE ZONE FORMATION

LD2521187 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Swahili 1530 GMT 25 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mogadiscio--The Government of Iran intends to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace with no big power military bases in it, the Iranian ambassador in Mogadiscio told SONNA reporters. He said his country strongly condemned all military activities anywhere in the ocean and appealed to all the world's peace-loving countries to take effective steps toward finding a way to maintain lasting peace and security in the Indian Ocean.

Referring to relations between the two peoples of Somalia and Iran, the envoy said that these were deeply rooted in the culture, traditions and religion of the two peoples.

BRIEFS

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED--Mr Giulio Tamagnini, new Italian ambassador to the Imperial Court, was received by the shah at Niavaran Palace this morning. During the audience, the new Italian ambassador presented his credentials to the monarch. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 19 Jan 78 LD]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH YAR--San'a', Pars--Iran and Yemen signed a cultural and technical cooperation agreement in San'a' on Thursday morning at a session of the Yemeni Council of Ministers. The agreement is one of many between the two countries. In May 1977 the PARS NEWS AGENCY and the SABA NEWS AGENCY of San'a' signed an agreement for the exchange of news. Currently a group of young Yemeni are studying in various educational institutions in Iran, and a number of Iranian experts assist the Yemeni Government in the implementation of projects in the oil industries and the management of natural resources. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 1200 GMT 20 Jan 78 LD]

MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS--The shah received the minister of information and tourism this morning, who introduced the following new under secretaries to the shah: Mr Fathollah Shahadat as under secretary for parliamentary and international affairs; Ata'ollah Tadayyon as information under secretary; and Mohammad Hoseyn Kashani Sabet as under secretary for tourism. [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 24 Jan 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

BORDER TALKS WITH INDIA CONCLUDE 27 JANUARY

BK271348Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The 3-day border talks between Bangladesh and India ended today. The Bangladesh side to the talks was led by the director general of the Bangladesh Rifles, Maj Gen Mohammad Attikur Rahman. The director general of the Border Security Forces, Mr Ashwani Kumar, led the Indian delegation.

During the 3-day talks the two sides covered wide-ranging subjects of mutual interest. Both the delegations agreed on the importance of implementing the understanding reached at the previous border talks for the maintenance of peace in the border areas. They also agreed on certain arrangements, including frequent meetings at a local level, to check transborder crimes like smuggling and cattle lifting in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. The Indian delegation has now left for home.

INDIA

SOVIETS, ROMANIANS SEND GREETINGS ON REPUBLIC DAY

BK271105Y Delhi ISI in English 0837 GMT 27 Jan 78 BK

[Excerpts] Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin felicitated India on the occasion of the Republic Day celebrations.

In a message to the Indian president and prime minister the two Soviet leaders, while extending their "best wishes", said the Soviet Union "highly values" India's contribution in the field of international cooperation, peace and solidarity.

Brezhnev and Kosygin also appreciated India's fight against imperialism and colonialism. They expressed confidence that the friendly ties between the two countries would help in reducing international tension and in strengthening the forces of peace, not only in Asia but all over the world.

Ivan Arkhipov, vice chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, said Desai's recent visit to Moscow had opened a "new era of mutual cooperation, especially for long term development programmes." Arkhipov said the Soviet Union "highly values" the peace loving policy of India, its adherence to nonalignment and coexistence of states.

Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, expressed confidence that the good relations of friendship and collaboration existing between his country and India would go on developing more and more in the political, economic, technical, scientific and other fields, as well as the cooperation between them in the world arena to the benefit of the Romanian and Indian peoples in the interest of the establishment of a new economic and political order throughout the world.

IRISH PRESIDENT LEAVES DELHI FOR TOUR OF INDIA

BK280924Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Irish President Dr Patrick Hillery and Mrs Hillery were accorded a ceremonial sendoff in New Delhi this morning when they left for Chandigarh.

They were seen off by the president, the prime minister and some of his cabinet colleagues and other dignitaries. President Hillery inspected an interservices guard of honor before his departure. A 21-gun salute was fired as his aircraft prepared to take off.

During a brief farewell ceremony, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy thanked Dr Hillery for his visit. He said Dr Hillery has made laudable contribution to the friendship between India and Ireland. The Irish president expressed his gratitude for the hospitality extended to him and his party. He said he has been deeply impressed by the unity and diversity that he has seen in the country. Dr Hillery has since arrived in Chandigarh and has left for Mhakra Nangal. He was received at the airport among others by the governors of Punjab and Haryana and the Punjab chief minister.

Dr Hillery, who arrived in Bombay on the 25th of this month, will visit several places of historical importance before returning home on the 7th of next month.

NEPAL

YUGOSLAVIA'S VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK3160JY Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 28 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Jan 28 (AFP)--Yugoslav Vice President Stevan Doronjski arrived here today on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista.

Mr Doronjski and his wife were given a red carpet welcome at the airport by Mr Bista, cabinet members and senior army and civilian officials.

In a brief speech, Mr Bista expressed the hope that Mr Doronjski's visit would be "another milestone in the development of friendly relations between Yugoslavia and Nepal."

Recalling a state visit by President Josip Broz Tito in 1974, Mr Bista declared: "We are happy with the active and creative role that Yugoslavia has been playing in the nonaligned movement. Both our countries adhere strictly to the policies and principles of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence which have brought us so close together."

In reply Mr Doronjski said: "We are happy, as a founder of nonalignment, to be able to know today that the idea has been almost universally accepted and it was [word indistinct] from the fact that the idea is approved by two-thirds of the world's population."

He said the existing bilateral relations between Nepal and Yugoslavia had developed "very favourably and successfully in the past decade."

Soon after his arrival, Mr Doronjski had official talks lasting 75 minutes with Mr Bista at the Singha Durbar central secretariat on international and bilateral matters, including ecomomic cooperation and bilateral trade, official sources said.

Tonight Mr Doronjski was to be guest of honour at a banquet given by Mr Bista. He is scheduled to fly to Surkhet, 400 kilometres (250 miles) west of Katmandu to meet King Birendra, who is currently on an internal tour to inspect development work.

Received by King Birendra

BK291600Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Their majesties the king and queen granted an audience to the vice president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr Stevan Doronjski, and Madame Doronjski at Surkhet Royal Palace today. Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista and Madame Bista and Foreign Minister Mr Krishna Raj Aryal were among those present on the occasion.

Others present on the occasion were Dr Slobodan Gligorijevic, member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslav Government; Mr Mirko Ostojic, assistant federal secretary for foreign affairs; and Yugoslav ambassador to Nepal, Mr Andjelko Blazevic and Madame Blazevic.

Meets With Bista

BK291602Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista called on the Yugoslav vice president, Mr Stevan Doronjski, at (Tipanyat) royal guest house this morning. The two leaders were together for about 40 minutes.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Bista said that Yugoslavia was keen on providing assistance to Nepal in her bid for all-round progress. They even agreed to specify the projects to be undertaken jointly.

Mr Bista said the five (?new joint) proposals came up for discussion and Yugoslavia's response to these initiatives was [words indistinct] and encouraging. The two sides are also learned to have emphasized the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Doronjski, Bista Begin Talks

LD282158Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1730 GMT 28 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Katmandu, Jan. 28 (TANJUG)--Yugoslav-Nepalese talks opened here in Katmandu today. The delegations of the two countries, headed by Presidency of Yugoslavia Vice-President Stevan Doronjski and Nepalese Premier Bista, today exchanged views on Yugoslav-Nepalese relations and number of international questions.

During the talks, it has been learned, the mutual satisfaction was expressed with the successful development of bilateral political relations and the mutual readiness [words indistinct] for investing further efforts to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries.

On international questions, the two delegations exchanged views on the situation in Southern Asia and the further efforts and actions of the non-aligned at the international level and in particular, the preparations for the Belgrade non-aligned ministerial conference.

Premier Bista expressed high regard for President Tito's role in the development of the non-aligned movement and the high prestige of the non-aligned in the solution of major international problems.

Nepalese Premier Bista offered here this evening an official dinner in honour of his guest, Presidency of Yugoslavia Vice-President Stevan Doronjski. In his toast at the dinner, the Nepalese premier set out that relations between Yugoslavia and Nepal have continuously been on an ascent since the first non-aligned summit conference in Belgrade. Premier Bista set out that Vice-President Doronjski's visit to Nepal marks a major event in friendly relations between Yugoslavia and Nepal and recalled that the visits earlier exchanged by President Tito and King Birendra of Nepal opened new prospects for cooperation, trust and friendship between the two countries.

A factor which brings the two countries close together is Yugoslavia's and Nepal's unwavering faith in the policy and principles of non-alignment, the Nepalese premier said, adding that Nepal views non-alignment as a dynamic policy which, as King Birendra has set out, is as valid today as it used to be. Non-alignment has contributed to the relaxation of international tensions and it today continues to play a very important role as the cornerstone of peace, the Nepalese premier said.

Premier Bista set out the need for the non-aligned to cooperate on the basis of a jointly defined approach to international questions and in the interest of peace and a new international economic order founded on justice, equality and progress for all mankind.

The Nepalese premier assessed as positive Yugoslavia's and President Tito's contribution to the creation and consolidation of the non-aligned movement.

In reply to the Nepalese premier's toast, Presidency of Yugoslavia Vice-President Stevan Doronjski set out the important role of Nepal's peaceful policy and international activity. Doronjski underlined that Nepal's cooperation with its neighbours is an example of adherence to the principles of peaceful co-existence and non-alignment and that as such, it greatly contributes to stability in the region of Southern Asia.

Doronjski singled out the importance of the meetings between President Tito and King Birendra, meetings which have reduced the geographic distance between the two countries by building bridges of friendly relations between them. The friendship between the two countries, Doronjski said, is founded on the stable principles of the struggle for peace and independence and new relations in the world. With these aspirations of theirs, Yugoslavia and Nepal, two of the founders and active members of the non-aligned movement, have made a full contribution to the non-aligned movement Doronjski said.

For Nepal and Yugoslavia, non-alignment is a vital necessity and true expression of their national interests, Doronjski set out.

Referring to the current international situation, Doronjski said that it requires the full commitment of the non-aligned gatherings for the affirmation of the non-aligned movement as an important factor in international relations and for the further consolidation of cooperation and unity of action of the non-aligned. Presidency of Yugoslavia Vice-Preisdent Stevan Doronjski expressed regret in regard to the conflict among non-aligned countries in the Horn of Africa and in South-East Asia. Doronjski, however, expressed the conviction that these countries will reach a solution to their disputes on the basis of the principle of the United Nations Charter and non-alignment.

Doronjski said that no solution is possible in the Middle East without Israel's full withdrawal, without the recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, including this people's right to its own state, and without security for all the states of the region, including Israel.

Economic Talks Held

BK291626Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Finance Minister Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa and Yugoslav Minister for Economic Cooperation Dr Slobodan Gligorejevic had talks in Katmandu today. Dr Thapa, after the talks lasting for about 2 hours, told newsmen: We have identified areas of cooperation between Nepal and Yugoslavia.

Finance Minister Dr Thapa said that the Yugoslav assistance was (?discussed) in the fields of agriculture, water resources and forest development. Expansion of trade between the two countries was also figured during the talks, the finance minister said, adding, that they also discussed the items to be traded bilaterally.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTANI-ROMANIAN COOPERATION TALKS CONTINUE

LD272346Y Bucharest AGERPRES IN English 1939 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Jan (AGERPRES)--The fourth session of the Joint Romanian-Pakistani Government Commission of Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation took place recently in Islamabad.

Covenanted and signed on the occasion were the agreement on the protection and mutual guaranteeing of capital investments, the convention on avoiding double taxation and preventing tax dodging, the protocol on the modification of the economic cooperation agreement in force, the programme for the application of the agreement on cooperation in science and technology in 1978-1979.

The session examined the way the provisions of the previous session are implemented, established measures for the further development of the commercial exchanges, for the carrying through of the ventures under negotiation and identified new domains and objectives providing cooperation opportunities.

The head of the Romanian delegation, Florea Dumitrescu, minister of finance, called on General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chief administrator of martial law and head of the Pakistani Government. Problems pertaining to the Romanian-Pakistani economic relations were tackled on the occasion as well as the ways to amplify them to the mutual interest and advantage.

During the session, the Romanian minister had working talks with Ghullam Ishaque Khan, general secretary of the Pakistani Government; Habibullah Khan, minister of industry and production; and with Muktar Masud, minister of trade.

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